

Slow Flo

4 dead as Hurricane Florence drenches the Carolinas

Rescue team member Sgt. Nick Muhar, from the North Carolina National Guard 1/120th battalion, evacuates a young child as the rising floodwaters from Hurricane Florence threatens his home in New Bern, N.C., on Friday, Sept. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

By JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — Blowing ashore with howling 90 mph (155 kph) winds, Hurricane Florence

splintered buildings, trapped hundreds of people and swamped entire communities along the Carolina coast Friday in what could be just the opening act in a watery,

two-part, slow-motion disaster. At least four people were killed. Forecasters warned that drenching rains of 1 to 3½ feet (30 centimeters to 1 meter) as the storm

crawls westward across North and South Carolina could trigger epic flooding well inland over the next few days.

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Trump, Pompeo bash ex-Secretary of State Kerry on Iran talks

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo unloaded Friday on his Obama-era predecessor John Kerry for “actively undermining” U.S. policy on Iran by meeting several times recently with the Iranian foreign minister, who was his main interlocutor in the Iran nuclear deal negotiations.

In unusually blunt and caustic language, Pompeo said Kerry’s meetings with Mohammad Javad Zarif were “unseemly and unprecedented” and “beyond inappropriate.” President Donald Trump had late Thursday accused Kerry of holding “illegal meetings with the very hostile Iranian Regime, which can only serve to undercut our great work to the detriment of the American people.”

Pompeo said he would leave “legal determinations to others” but slammed Kerry as a former secretary of state for engaging with “the world’s largest state-sponsor of terror” and telling Iran to “wait out this administration.” He noted that just this week Iranian-backed militias had fired rockets at U.S. diplomatic compounds in Iraq. “You can’t find precedent for this in U.S. history, and Secretary Kerry ought not to engage in that kind of behavior,” an agitated Pompeo told reporters at the State Department. “It’s inconsistent with what foreign policy of the United States is as directed by this president, and it is beyond inappropriate for him to be engaged.”

Kerry, who is promoting his new book “Every Day is Extra,” tweeted a response to Trump that referred to the president’s former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, who agreed on Friday to cooperate with the special counsel’s investigation into Russia interference in the 2016 presidential election and possible coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

“Mr. President, you should



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks at a news conference in the press briefing room at the State Department in Washington, Friday, Sept. 14, 2018, in Washington.

be more worried about Paul Manafort meeting with Robert Mueller than me meeting with Iran’s FM. But if you want to learn something about the nuclear agreement that made the world safer, buy my new book,” said Kerry.

He has been harshly critical of the president and his decision in May to withdraw from the Iran deal but denies “coaching” Tehran. In a statement, his spokesman, Matt Summers, said: “There’s nothing unusual, let alone unseemly or inappropriate, about former diplomats meeting with foreign counterparts. Secretary (Henry) Kissinger has done it for decades with Russia and China. What is unseemly and unprecedented is for the podium of the State Department to be hijacked for political theatrics.”

Pompeo also took to task former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and ex-Iran deal negotiator Wendy Sherman for joining Kerry at a meeting with Zarif and other Iranian officials earlier this year at a security conference in Munich — though Sherman

said Friday she wasn’t with Kerry and Moniz when she met Zarif there. Along with Kerry, Moniz and Sherman played key roles in negotiating the 2015 agreement between Iran and several world powers that lifted sanctions against Tehran in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear program.

“I wasn’t in the meeting, but I am reasonably confident that he was not there in support of U.S. policy with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Pompeo said. “Former secretaries of state — all of them, from either political party — ought not to be engaged in” this kind of activity, he said. “Actively undermining U.S. policy as a former secretary of state is literally unheard of.” Meetings between a private U.S. citizen and foreign official are not against the law and not necessarily inappropriate or a violation of federal regulations, but Trump, Pompeo and several GOP lawmakers say they are evidence Kerry and former Obama administration officials are trying to subvert Trump’s hard line on Iran.

“John Kerry had illegal

meetings with the very hostile Iranian Regime, which can only serve to undercut our great work to the detriment of the American people,” Trump tweeted late Thursday. “He told them to wait out the Trump Administration! Was he registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act? BAD!” The law Trump invoked — the Foreign Agents Registration Act, or FARA — requires registration and transparency by people or companies acting on behalf of foreign governments, political parties or individuals.

But Josh Rosenstein, a partner with the Washington law firm Sandler Reiff and a specialist in lobbying compliance, said there are too many unanswered questions to know whether the law applies to Kerry’s interactions with Zarif. FARA’s provisions don’t extend to activities conducted entirely overseas, so where Kerry interacted with him matters. Also unclear is whether any Iranians specifically asked Kerry for advice.

“The devil’s always in the details,” Rosenstein said. “Simply offering advice

to a foreign government doesn’t make you a foreign agent.”

When reports of Kerry’s ex-officio contacts with Zarif first surfaced in May, Trump tweeted similar thoughts. “John Kerry can’t get over the fact that he had his chance and blew it! Stay away from negotiations John, you are hurting your country!” he said on May 8. A day earlier, he tweeted: “The United States does not need John Kerry’s possibly illegal Shadow Diplomacy on the very badly negotiated Iran Deal. He was the one that created this MESS in the first place!”

Trump and Pompeo’s criticism came after Kerry told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt on Wednesday that earlier reports of his meetings with Zarif were correct: They had met three or four times since Kerry left office but not since Pompeo took the job in April. One of those meetings took place in Oslo, Norway, and another in Munich, he said. A third is reported to have occurred at the United Nations headquarters, which is not technically on U.S. soil. □

Associated Press

Hurricane Florence

Continued from Front

As 400-mile-wide (645-kilometer-wide) Florence pounded away at the coast with torrential downpours and surging seas, rescue crews used boats to reach more than 360 people besieged by rising waters in New Bern, while many of their neighbors awaited help. More than 60 people had to be rescued in another town as a cinderblock motel collapsed at the height of the storm's fury.

Florence flattened trees, crumbled roads and knocked out power to more than 840,000 homes and businesses, and the assault wasn't anywhere close to being over, with the siege in the Carolinas expected to last all week-end.

"It's an uninvited brute who doesn't want to leave," said North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper.

The hurricane was "wreaking havoc" and could wipe out entire communities as it makes its "violent grind across our state for days," the governor said. He said parts of North Carolina had seen storm surges — the bulge of seawater pushed ashore by the hurricane — as high as 10 feet (3 meters).

A mother and baby were killed when a tree fell on a house, according to a tweet from Wilmington police. Also, a 77-year-old man was apparently knocked down by the wind and died after going out to check on his hunting dogs, Lenoir County authorities said, and the governor's office said a man was electrocuted while trying to connect extension cords in the rain.

Shaken after seeing waves crashing on the Neuse River just outside his house in New Bern, restaurant owner and hurricane veteran Tom Ballance wished he had evacuated.

"I feel like the dumbest human being who ever walked the face of the earth," he said.

After reaching a terrifying Category 4 peak of 140 mph (225 kph) ear-

lier in the week, Florence made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane at 7:15 a.m. at Wrightsville Beach, a few miles (kilometers) east of Wilmington and not far from the South Carolina line. It came ashore along a mostly boarded-up, emptied-out stretch of coastline.

By Friday evening, Florence was downgraded to a tropical storm, its winds weakening to 70 mph (112 kph) as it pushed inland. But it was clear that this was really about the water, not the wind.

Florence's forward movement during the day slowed to a near-standstill — sometimes it was going no faster than a human can walk — and that enabled it to pile on the rain. The town of Oriental, North Carolina, got more than 20 inches (50 centimeters) just a few hours into the deluge. Other communities got well over a foot (30 centimeters).

The flooding soon spread into South Carolina, swamping places like North Myrtle Beach, in a resort area known for its white sands and multitude of golf courses.

For people living inland in the Carolinas, the moment of maximum peril from flash flooding could arrive days later, because it takes time for rainwater to drain into rivers and for those streams to crest. Authorities warned, too, of the threat of mudslides and the risk of an environmental disaster from floodwaters washing over industrial waste sites and hog farms.

Florence was seen as a major test for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which was heavily criticized as slow and unprepared last year for Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, where the death toll was put at nearly 3,000.

The National Hurricane Center said Florence will eventually break up over the southern Appalachians and make a right hook to the northeast, its rainy remnants moving into the mid-Atlantic states and New England by the middle of next week.



A fallen tree is shown after it crashed through the home where a woman and her baby were killed in Wilmington, N.C., after Hurricane Florence made landfall Friday, Sept. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

Meteorologist Ryan Maue of weathermodels.com said Florence could dump a staggering 18 trillion gallons (68 trillion liters) of rain over a week on North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Maryland. That's enough to fill the Chesapeake Bay or cover the entire state of Texas with nearly 4 inches (10 centimeters) of water, he calculated.

North Carolina alone is forecast to get 9.6 trillion gallons (36 trillion liters), enough to cover the Tar Heel state to a depth of about 10 inches (25 centimeters).

On Friday, coastal streets in the Carolinas flowed with frothy ocean water, and pieces of torn-apart buildings flew through the air. The few cars out on a main street in Wilmington had to swerve to avoid fallen trees, metal debris and power lines.

A wind gust at the Wilmington airport was clocked at 105 mph (nearly 170 kph), the highest since Hurricane Helene in 1958. Nationwide, airlines canceled more than 2,400 flights through Sunday.

In Jacksonville, North Carolina, next to Camp Lejeune, firefighters and police fought wind and rain as they went door-to-door to pull dozens of people out of the Triangle Motor Inn after the structure began to crumble and the roof started to collapse.

In New Bern, population 29,000, flooding on the Neuse River left 500 people in peril.

"WE ARE COMING TO GET YOU," the city tweeted around 2 a.m. "You may need to move up to the second story, or to your attic, but WE ARE COMING TO GET YOU." Boat teams including volunteers rescued some 360 residents, including Sadie Marie Holt, 67, who first tried to row

out of her neighborhood during Florence's assault. "The wind was so hard, the waters were so hard, that trying to get out we got thrown into trailers. We got thrown into mailboxes, houses, trees," said Holt, who had stayed at home because of a doctor's appointment that was later canceled. She retreated and was eventually rescued by a boat crew; 140 more awaited assistance. □

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Manafort pleads guilty, will cooperate with special counsel

By ERIC TUCKER, CHAD DAY
and MICHAEL BALSAMO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort agreed Friday to cooperate with the special counsel's Trump-Russia investigation as he pleaded guilty to federal crimes and avoided a second trial that could have exposed him to more time in prison.

The deal gives special counsel Robert Mueller a key cooperator who steered the Trump election effort for a pivotal stretch of the 2016 presidential campaign. The result also ensures the investigation will extend far beyond the November congressional elections despite entreaties from the president's lawyers that Mueller bring it to a close.

It is unclear what information Manafort is prepared to offer investigators about the president or that could aid Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. But his involvement in key episodes under scrutiny, and his leadership of the campaign at a time when prosecutors say Russian intelligence was working to sway the election, may make him an especially valuable witness.

The agreement makes



In this Feb. 14, 2018 file photo, Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, leaves the federal courthouse in Washington.

Manafort the latest associate of Trump, a president known to place a premium on loyalty among subordinates, to admit guilt and work with investigators in hopes of leniency.

Manafort had long resisted the idea of cooperating even as prosecutors stacked additional charges against him in Washington and Virginia. Trump had scolded that stance, publicly praising him and suggesting Manafort had been treated worse than gangster Al Capone. Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, had suggested a pardon might be a possibility after the investigation was concluded.

Then came Friday's ex-

traordinary development when Manafort agreed to provide any information asked of him, testify whenever asked and even work undercover if necessary.

Mueller has already secured cooperation from a former national security adviser who lied to the FBI about discussing sanctions with a Russian ambassador, a campaign aide who broached the idea of a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin; and another aide who was indicted alongside Manafort but ultimately turned on him. Trump's former personal lawyer has separately pleaded guilty in New York. Friday's deal, to charges in Washington tied to Ukrai-

nian political consulting work but unrelated to the campaign, was struck just days before Manafort was to stand trial for a second time.

He was convicted last month of eight financial crimes in a separate trial in Virginia and faces seven to 10 years in prison in that case.

The two conspiracy counts he admitted to on Friday carry up to five years, though Manafort's sentence will ultimately depend on his cooperation.

"He wanted to make sure that his family was able to remain safe and live a good life. He's accepted responsibility. This is for conduct that dates back many years and everybody should remember that," Manafort attorney Kevin Downing said outside court.

The agreement doesn't specify what if anything prosecutors hope to receive about Trump, but Manafort could be well-positioned to provide key insight for investigators working to establish whether the campaign coordinated with Russia.

He was among the participants, for instance, in a June 2016 Trump Tower meeting with Russians and Trump's oldest son and son-in-law that was arranged

for the campaign to receive derogatory information about Democrat Hillary Clinton. He was also a close business associate of a man who U.S. intelligence believes has ties to Russian intelligence.

And while he was working on the campaign, emails show Manafort discussed providing private briefings for a wealthy Russian businessman close to Putin.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders insisted the Manafort case was unrelated to Trump, and Giuliani said, "Once again an investigation has concluded with a plea having nothing to do with President Trump or the Trump campaign."

It's unclear how the deal might affect any Manafort pursuit of a pardon from Trump, though Giuliani told Politico before the deal that a plea without a cooperation agreement wouldn't foreclose the possibility of a pardon.

Under the terms of the deal, Manafort was allowed to plead guilty to just two counts, though the crimes he admitted largely cover the same conduct alleged in an indictment last year. He abandoned his right to appeal his conviction in Virginia and agreed to forfeit homes in New York, including a condo in Trump Tower. □

Federal court ponders next steps in DeVos for-profit suit

By MARIA DANILOVA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Friday asked the court for another chance to delay an Obama-era policy meant to boost protections for students defrauded by for-profit schools.

The request comes two days after the court ruled that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' move to freeze the regulation known as borrower defense was "arbitrary and capricious." That decision dealt a severe blow to her

efforts to ease regulations on the for-profit college industry.

Attorney Adam Pulver with Public Citizen, an advocacy group, said defrauded students are facing "continuing everyday harm" and asked the court that the delayed regulation be enforced immediately.

But lawyers for the Department of Education asked Judge Randolph Moss to give the agency a chance to correct the mistakes the court identified in how the delay was put in place. It also asked that in case the

court does rule that the Obama regulation must take effect, that it grant the department 60 days to prepare.

Judge Moss did not say when he would issue a ruling.

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, who took part in the lawsuit against DeVos along with a group of Democratic attorneys general from a number of states, said Wednesday's ruling was "a victory for every family defrauded by a predatory for-profit school."



In this June 5, 2018, file photo, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos testifies during hearing on the FY19 budget on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

The Obama administration went hard after the for-profit sector, tightening regulations and spending over \$550 million to forgive

the loans of defrauded students. DeVos said that system was unfair to taxpayers and set out to rewrite those rules. □

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Firefighter's death caused by retardant drop from 747

By DON THOMPSON,
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— A firefighter battling the largest wildfire in California history was killed last month when thousands of gallons of flame-suppressing liquid were dropped from an aircraft flying barely above the treetops because spotters mistakenly sent it on a route too close to the ground, according to state investigation findings released Friday.

The pilot and a supervisor flying ahead in a small guide plane led the giant modified Boeing 747 nearly into the trees on Aug. 13 because the pilots failed to recognize that there was a hill in the flight path, according to the Green Sheet report by the state's fire-fighting agency.

Because of the near ground-level release, the retardant struck with such force it uprooted an 87-foot (27-meter) tree that fell on Matthew Burchett, a 42-year-old battalion chief from Utah helping with the Mendocino Complex Fire north of San Francisco.

Another large tree was snapped by the force of nearly 20,000 gallons (75,700 liters) of liquid and three firefighters were injured, one seriously.

Two supervisors — one in the air and one on the ground — potentially face discipline or loss of their current positions because of multiple compounding mistakes, said Cliff Allen, president of the union representing California's wild-land firefighters.



This undated photo provided by the Unified Fire Authority shows Utah firefighter Mathew Burchett. Associated Press

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Scott McLean said there are ongoing internal investigations into what went wrong.

"We definitely don't want this to ever happen again," McLean said.

The 747 was flying only 100 feet (30 meters) above the treetops, at least 100 feet too low, officials said. The goal is to fly high enough for the retardant to disperse and fall like rain, but at such a low level they said the slurry would have hit the trees at nearly the same speed as the aircraft — more than 160 mph (260 kph).

The guide pilot "made

a 'show me' run" for the 747 pilot over the intended path for the retardant drop, and marked the path for the jet with a smoke trail, according to the report.

"Obscured by heavy vegetation and unknown to the (747) pilot, a rise in elevation occurred along the flight path." The ground sloped up about 170 feet (50 meters) in the middle of what otherwise was a flat area, according to the report.

The guide planes have two people aboard, a pilot and an "air tactical supervisor," a specially trained firefighter who directs the pilots of both the guide plane and the airtanker trailing be-

hind.

"He laid down the line and he was directing the tanker and the tanker was following direction," said Allen, the union president.

McLean said spotters have a difficult job because "the ground is very deceptive and very hard to read."

The retardant drops were intended to help secure a firebreak cut through the trees by a bulldozer to stop advancing flames. Burchett and the other three firefighters were working on the hill next to the firebreak when the drop was announced over a radio and firefighters were told to "Clear the area out."

The four did not respond

to the warning, though the report says that "when personnel are working under a tree canopy, supervisors must ensure the drop path is cleared."

Allen said the supervisor could face discipline for not getting an acknowledgement that the firefighters were evacuating. It is not uncommon to have firefighters under retardant drops, McLean said, though he could not say if the four firefighters knew they were in the flight path or why they didn't acknowledge or act on the radioed warning. A firefighter who can't move out of the way is trained to lie spread-eagled, face down, toward the oncoming aircraft, one hand holding the top of the helmet as it takes the brunt of the impact from the falling slurry and air turbulence that can threaten to lift a firefighter off the ground.

Burchett, a suburban Salt Lake City firefighter, was crushed by the uprooted tree, while the others were stuck by falling tree debris. Two had deep muscle contusions and ligament damage. One also suffered broken ribs, while the fourth firefighter had scratches and abrasions. □

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Everyone wants answers: Mass., feds hunt for gas blast cause

By BOB SALSBERG
Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP) — Investigators worked Friday to pinpoint the cause of a series of fiery natural gas explosions that killed a teen driver in his car just hours after he got his license, injured at least 25 others and left dozens of homes in smoldering ruins.

Authorities said an estimated 8,000 people were displaced at the height of Thursday's post-explosion chaos in three towns north of Boston rocked by the disaster. Most were still waiting, shaken and exhausted, to be allowed to return to their homes.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team to help investigate the blasts in a state where some of the aging gas pipeline system dates to the 1860s.

The rapid-fire series of gas explosions that one official described as "Armageddon" ignited fires in 60 to 80 homes in the working-class towns of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, forcing entire neighborhoods to evacuate as crews scrambled to fight the flames and shut off the gas and electricity.

Gas and electricity remained shut down Friday in most of the area, and entire neighborhoods were eerily deserted.

Authorities said Leonel Rondon, 18, of Lawrence, died after a chimney toppled by an exploding house crashed into his car. He was rushed to a Boston hospital and pronounced dead Thursday evening.

Rondon, a musician who went by the name DJ Blaze, had just gotten his driver's license, grieving friends and relatives told The Boston Globe. "It's crazy how this happened," said a friend, Cassandra Carrion.

The state Registry of Motor Vehicles said Rondon had been issued his driver's license only hours earlier Thursday.

Massachusetts State Police urged all residents with homes serviced by Columbia Gas in the three communities to evacuate,



The house owned by Lawrence Police Officer Ivan Soto sits nearly burned to the ground on Jefferson Street, in Lawrence, Mass., Friday, Sept. 14, 2018.

snarling traffic and causing widespread confusion as residents and local officials struggled to understand what was happening. Some 400 people spent the night in shelters, and school was canceled Friday as families waited to return to their homes.



A collapsed home and car sit damaged on Chickering Street in Lawrence, Mass., Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, after a series of gas explosions in several communities north of Boston. Authorities said Leonel Rondon died after the chimney toppled by the exploding house crashed into his car in the driveway. He was rushed to a Boston hospital but pronounced dead there in the evening.

Gov. Charlie Baker said state and local authorities were investigating but it could take days or weeks before they turn up answers, acknowledging the "massive inconvenience" for those displaced by the explosions. He said hundreds of gas technicians were going house-to-house

to ensure each was safe, and declared a state of emergency for the affected area so the state could take over recovery efforts. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency blamed the fires on gas lines that had become over-pressurized but said in-

vestigators were still examining what happened. Capturing the mounting sense of frustration, Democratic U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton tweeted that he had called the utility's president several times with no response. "Everyone wants answers. And we deserve them," Moulton said.

Associated Press

Associated Press

Columbia Gas President Steve Bryant wouldn't comment on the suspected cause of the blasts, deflecting questions about his company's response but saying it had "substantive, lengthy conversations" with the authorities.

The Massachusetts gas pipeline system is among the oldest in the country, as much as 157 years old in some places, according to the Conservation Law Foundation, an environmental advocacy group. Columbia Gas had announced earlier Thursday that it would be upgrading gas lines in neighborhoods across the state, including the area where the explosions happened. It was not clear whether work was happening there Thursday, and a spokeswoman did not return calls seeking comment.

At least one story of heroism emerged from the ashes: that of Lawrence police officer Ivan Soto. His house burned nearly to the ground, but after rushing home to check on his family and warn his neighbors to evacuate, he went back on patrol.

"He actually stayed on duty even though his house was burning down" neighbor Christel Nazario told The Associated Press. "I don't

know how he did it."

The three communities house more than 146,000 residents about 26 miles (40 kilometers) north of Boston, near the New Hampshire border. Lawrence, the largest, is a majority Latino city with a population of about 80,000.

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera reassured immigrants who might not be living in his city legally that they had nothing to fear.

"Do not be afraid. Stay in the light. We will support you and your family," Rivera said at a news conference Friday, speaking in English and Spanish. "Lawrence is one community."

Authorities said all of the fires had been extinguished overnight and the situation was stabilizing. But Rivera criticized the gas utility for poor communications and accused the company of "hiding from the problem."

On Thursday, Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield described the unfolding scene as "Armageddon."

"There were billows of smoke coming from Lawrence behind me. I could see pillars of smoke in front of me from the town of Andover," he told reporters.

Aerial footage of the area showed some homes that appeared to be torn apart by the blasts.

Brenda Charest stood anxiously on her front porch while a crew checked her undamaged home before giving her the all-clear to return Friday. On Thursday, she had come home to a hissing sound in her basement and a strong odor of natural gas.

"We took off. I said, 'Pack up, we're out of here,'" said Charest, who went with her 93-year old father and cat to a relative's home. "It was scary. We didn't know anything."

Columbia Gas was been fined \$100,000 by the state for a variety of safety violations since 2010, including \$35,000 in 2016 for failing to follow company and pipeline safety regulations when responding to an outage and repairing a leak in Taunton. □

Colombian drug kingpin busted in massive smuggling operation

By BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Colombian drug kingpin who participated in a violent ring that used planes, speedboats and submarines to smuggle hundreds of millions of dollars in cocaine faced federal trafficking charges Friday in a Los Angeles courtroom, prosecutors said.

Victor Hugo Cuellar-Silva is among nearly four dozen defendants charged in a vast conspiracy to ship tons of cocaine from South America through Mexico to the U.S.

The indictment unsealed Thursday was unique in targeting people throughout the drug distribution chain from the source of where the coke was produced

in Colombia to investors in Mexico, transportation coordinators, houses where the drugs were stashed and to large scale distributors in the U.S., federal prosecutors said.

Cuellar-Silva, who was extradited Thursday from Colombia, was a high-ranking member of the drug ring headed by Mexican fugitive Angel Humberto Chavez-Gastelum, who is one of the most-wanted drug traffickers in the world, prosecutors said.

Chavez-Gastelum and his son, Alonso Jaime Gastelum-Salazar, are also charged in the indictment with two counts of murder in Mexico.

One of the victims was tortured and dismembered and the grisly act was shot

on video obtained by investigators, prosecutors said.

"This drug ring has spread death and misery across the Americas and to other parts of the world, which makes this case among the most significant drug trafficking cases ever brought in this district," said U.S. Attorney Nick Hanna.

Authorities seized more than 7,700 pounds (3,500 kilograms) of cocaine with a street value over \$500 million during the three-year investigation.

The seizures included cocaine recovered after a plane was shot down by the Venezuelan military and crashed in the Caribbean, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin Barron.

Other drugs seized includ-



This undated photo provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office Central District of California shows Mexican fugitive Angel Humberto Chavez-Gastelum. Chavez-Gastelum and his son, Alonso Jaime Gastelum-Salazar, have been named in an indictment on Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

ed nearly a ton of cocaine (833 kilograms) floating in bales off the coast of Tumaco, Colombia and more than 1,500 pounds (700 kilograms) of cocaine and over 60 pounds (30 kilograms) of methamphetamine seized in a Tijuana, Mexico, house.

The indictment charged 47 people in the drug operation. Seven defendants were arrested in the U.S.

Thursday, four were in custody in Thailand and about a half-dozen were facing extradition from Colombia. The others remained at large.

Cuellar-Silva was in custody. A defense lawyer representing him said he had no comment.

If convicted of the charges, Cuellar-Silva and Chavez-Gastelum face up to life in prison, prosecutors said. □

San Francisco statue that some call racist is removed

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A 19th century statue near San Francisco's City Hall that some said is racist and demeaning to indigenous people was removed early Friday.

A group of Native Americans chanted, beat drums and burned sage as the workers used a crane to take down the "Early Days" statue depicting a Native American at the feet of a Spanish cowboy and a Catholic missionary. It was part of group of bronze statues near City Hall that depict the founding of California. Native American activists tried to have the statue removed for decades. They renewed efforts last year after clashes broke out across the U.S. over Confederate monuments. Cities nationwide have tried to remove Confederate monuments following the racially motivated massacre of nine people at a black church in South Carolina and a violent white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. The San Francisco Board of Appeals voted unani-

mously Wednesday for the removal of the statue, which was part of the Pioneer Monument first erected in 1894. While American Indians have pushed for the statue's removal for decades, it has not attracted the same furor as Confederate monuments elsewhere. In a 1996 compromise, a plaque was installed underneath the sculpture explaining that the monument "represents a conventional attitude of the 19th century."

"I think we're witnessing a moment in history where, commendably, San Francisco officials are doing the right thing to help rectify the mistreatment of indigenous people," Janeen Antoine, who is of Lakota heritage, told the San Francisco Chronicle. "We're very happy this is finally happening after decades of work and struggle from the native community."

The statue will be restored and put in storage until officials decide what to do with it, said San Francisco's Arts Commission spokeswoman Kate Patterson. □



This Friday, March 2, 2018 file photo shows a statue that depicts a Native American at the feet of a Spanish cowboy and Catholic missionary in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Spanish PM publishes thesis to dispel plagiarism allegations

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spanish Prime Minister Pablo Sanchez published his doctoral thesis online Friday to deflect any doubts over its existence and refute allegations of plagiarism raised by media and the political opposition.

A day earlier Sanchez, a Socialist, wrote on Facebook that he considered the plagiarism allegations a “personal attack” by opposition parties in the absence of a “solid political project.”

He also threatened to take legal action against ABC newspaper and other media that published stories arguing that passages of his “Spain’s Economic Diplomacy, 2010-2012” dissertation had been copied from other researchers’ works.

Doctored or exaggerated resumes have backfired in Spanish politics in the past, but academic misdeeds uncovered by the media have led to political turmoil and a string of high-profile resignations in recent months.

They include the conservative former president of the Madrid region and a health minister in Sanchez’s



Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez steps out of the Moncloa Palace in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018.

cabinet, who both stepped down amid allegations that they had obtained master’s degrees at the same private public policy institute in Madrid without apparently showing up for classes or by copying passages of their papers.

Courts in Madrid have opened an investigation and the Supreme Court is separately probing the degree obtained by the current opposition leader,

the Popular Party’s Pablo Casado, who graduated from the same university. Media lined up at the library of Sanchez’s alma mater in Madrid on Wednesday shortly after another opposition leader, Citizens’ Albert Rivera, dared the prime minister to publish his thesis to dispel “reasonable doubts” over its existence. The journalists found a single printed copy that the university wouldn’t al-

low to be copied, and also learned that Sanchez had not authorized online copies. Amid mounting pressure, the thesis was finally uploaded on Friday to an Education Ministry online directory for academic researchers. The prime minister’s office also issued a statement saying the thesis had passed plagiarism tests of two specialized pieces of software used by academics.

Associated Press

Sanchez surprised observers of Spanish politics in June when he succeeded in ousting his predecessor with a vote of no confidence. While he won early praise for leading a cabinet with a majority of women, opening ports to migrants and offering an olive branch to the strong separatist movement in Catalonia, a cabinet member resigned within a week of taking the oath after an undisclosed tax fine emerged.

Sanchez’s minority government, with only 84 Socialist lawmakers in the 350-seat lower house of the parliament, has also been marred by erratic policies and increasing criticism, reversing decisions to accept migrants crossing from Morocco, to authorize a sex workers union and, just this week, to halt arm sales to Saudi Arabia.

He lost his second cabinet member on Tuesday when Health Minister Carmen Monton resigned over irregularities found in the way she obtained her master’s degree, including chunks of the final thesis copied from websites and other works. □

No joke as ex-comic becomes Slovenia’s new prime minister

By JOVANA GEC

Associated Press

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (AP) — Slovenia’s new prime minister used to make people laugh. Handling the disparate demands of his five-party coalition government is unlikely to leave much time for jokes.

Once a satirist who impersonated prominent politicians, Marjan Sarec has taken the helm of a largely centrist government — a rare phenomenon, at least recently, in Central Europe where populists have been on the march from Italy to Poland.

Sarec, who has become Slovenia’s youngest ever premier at 40, will face a tough job keeping the minority government afloat. After all, the government’s majority in parliament is



In this Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 file photo, Slovenian presidential candidate Marjan Sarec talks to the media in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Associated Press

slim and the right-wing opposition is not going to give Sarec a honeymoon in office. Enacting too many reforms is not going to be easy in that environment and that could potentially lead to disgruntlement in a country of just 2 million people. The tight parliamentary arithmetic was evident

Thursday when the new government was narrowly endorsed. Only half the 90-member backed the government, just enough to keep away from power the anti-immigrant allies of Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Analysts warned it is too early to say whether the

elevation of a moderate government spells a turning point in the region.

“At stake now is Europe, more than Slovenia,” said Janez Markes, an analyst for the Delo newspaper. “Slovenia at this moment, I hate to say it, is not part of the problem.”

The success of the new government could depend heavily on whether Sarec, who gave up a successful acting career when he first entered politics, proves he is up to the task.

Sarec served twice as the mayor of his native Kamnik, in central Slovenia before gaining prominence when he forced a presidential runoff vote last year against veteran politician Borut Pahor. “It is easier to observe from the side and criticize than to do some-

thing,” Sarec said Thursday in parliament. “It is time to start working now.”

One of the mainstays of Sarec’s act was impersonating former prime minister, Janez Jansa, who is now his main right-wing opponent. With a group of young artists, Sarec hosted a satirical radio show dubbed ‘Radio Ga Ga’ that was popular throughout Slovenia in the 1990s. Some of his performances show Sarec altering his voice to mock politicians’ accents, singing or screaming with a kitchen cloth on his head as an alternative poet.

Saso Hribar, a journalist who worked with Sarec, says he remembers the new prime minister as highly professional and considers him thoroughly prepared for his any of his roles. □

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Young Russians taking the lead in anti-Putin protests

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — When almost all the protesters at recent anti-government rallies across Russia went home, teenagers and young adults were the only ones left on the streets.

"In my circle, more and more people are getting protest-minded," said 20-year-old theater student Andrei Zabara, one of about two dozen youths who ended up staying camped on the streets of Moscow on Sunday. "My parents are supporting the protest. The girl who was streaming it on Instagram last night — her mom was helping, she brought us food. But as far as the rallies go, (the parents) are afraid to come out."

Many born during President Vladimir Putin's 18-year-long rule, young Russians like Zabara have long been considered one of his most loyal constituents. But increasingly, the government's anti-Western agenda and reports of widespread corruption are turning young Russians against the leader.

In the decade following the collapse of the Soviet Union, street protests were led by 50- and 60-year-olds, disenchanted by the free-wheeling capitalism while their children were busy reinventing themselves in a new market economy. In 2011, when Putin announced his return to the presidency, it was the budding middle-aged middle class that took to the streets to protest what they saw as



In this Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018 file photo, protesters hold posters that read: "Goodbye", top, and "No Way", during a rally in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

an unfair and archaic political system. But the violent crackdown on a rally in May 2012 and ensuing criminal persecutions of a dozen protesters have scared off the 40-year-olds. In the meantime, their teenage children have taken the lead. With Russia's rigid political system offering no other outlet for discontent, young people have turned to unsanctioned street protests, ignoring official bans and unafraid of police brutality.

"Young people are taking to the streets on behalf of their parents, not against them," said Moscow-based political analyst Ekaterina Schulmann. "Those kids enjoy the support of their parents who may be wary of the risks, may be afraid

(of coming out)... but they share the same values."

Zabara says his parents are supportive of his activism but are too afraid to join him on the streets, fearing repercussions for their jobs. Some teenagers attended the protest with their parents.

Yevgeny Roizman, who served as mayor of Russia's fourth-largest city Yekaterinburg and is considered one of the most popular opposition leaders in the regions, said he found Sunday's protest crowd in Yekaterinburg substantially younger than he expected. "Young people are coming out for us and taking the hit," he said in a video blog earlier this week, adding that older people should "feel ashamed."

More than 1,000 people were arrested at protest rallies across Russia last Sunday.

The most recent wave of anti-government protests erupted in spring 2017 when opposition leader Alexei Navalny released a YouTube expose of Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's alleged wealth. The video got more than 27 million views, and Navalny's foray into social media and YouTube blogging brought to the streets a younger, more determined and angrier generation.

Emboldened by support from the youth, Navalny has been gathering supporters in central locations in Moscow and other cities, often resulting in run-ins with the police.

Viktor, a 16-year old high school student who asked his last name not to be published for fear of trouble in school, said he started going to rallies last year. He believed the protest crowd is ready to go one step further.

"I can feel this transformation of the youth, of the minds. Before that the rallies were like you shout all you want and then everyone leaves," he said. "Now people are staying, organizing round-the-clock rallies, marching on to the Kremlin."

At the demonstration on Sunday, several dozen protesters charged at barriers across the road from the Kremlin and clashed with riot police. The rally fizzled out after some of them were beaten up by police and detained. In the end, some 20 protesters decided to camp out at the protest venue and spend the night there. In the morning, police officers showed up at what looked like an improvised picnic, and asked the young people to go to the police station with them.

Four days later, a dozen young protesters were still roaming the streets of Moscow.

Talking about the protest's turn to violence is fraught with consequences in Russia, as law enforcement agencies have been using new draconian laws to bring criminal charges against opposition-minded youth for something as minor as a blog post or a tweet. □

Yemenis in an isolated district eat leaves to survive

By MAGGIE MICHAEL

CAIRO (AP) — Many families with starving children in an isolated pocket of northern Yemen have no food except the boiled leaves of local wild vine, a sign of how some are falling through the cracks of international relief efforts trying to prevent widespread death from famine around the country.

The main health center in Aslam district was crowded with emaciated children during a recent visit by the Associated Press. Excruciatingly thin toddlers, eyes bulging, sat in a plastic washtub used in a makeshift scale as staff weighed each one. Their papery skin was stretched tight over pencil-like limbs and knobby knees.

At least 20 children are known to have died of starvation already this year in the province that includes the district. The real number is likely far higher, since few families report their children's deaths when they die at home, officials say.

"We are in the 21st century, but this is what the war did to us," said the health center's chief, Mekkiya Mahdi. Yemen is more than three years into a civil war that has wrecked the country's already fragile ability to feed itself. The war pits Shiite rebels known as Houthis, who hold the north, against a Saudi-led coalition, armed and backed by the United States. The coalition has sought to bomb the rebels into submission with an air campaign in support of Yemeni government forces.

Around 2.9 million women and children are acutely malnourished; another 400,000 children are fighting for their lives only a step away from starvation.

At least 8.4 million of Yemen's 29 million people would starve if they didn't receive international aid, a number that grew by a quarter the past year, according to U.N. figures. It is likely to jump by another 3.5 million because the currency's tumbling value leaves more people unable to afford food, the U.N. said.



In this Aug. 25, 2018 image made from video, a severely malnourished girl waits for her turn to be treated at the Aslam Health Center in Hajjah, Yemen.

Associated Press

Humanitarian officials warn that in the face of unending war, hunger's spread is outstripping efforts to keep people alive.

When AP approached U.N. agencies with questions about the situation in Aslam, they expressed alarm and surprise. In response to the AP's questions, international and local aid groups launched an investigation into why food wasn't getting to the some families, a top relief official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of issues involved in operating in the war-ravaged country.

As an immediate response, the official said, relief agencies are sending over 10,000 food baskets to the district, and UNICEF Resident Representative Dr. Meritxell Relano said the organization is increasing

its mobile teams in the district from three to four and providing transportation to health facilities.

In first six months of this year, Hajjah province, where Aslam is located, recorded 17,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition, higher than in any full year, said Walid al-Shamshan, head of the Health Ministry's nutrition section in the province. "It's a steady deterioration and it's scary," al-Shamshan said. Even after treatment, children often deteriorate once again when they go home to villages with no food and contaminated water.

Aslam is one of Yemen's poorest districts, located in the Houthi heartland. Its population of 75,000 to 106,000 includes both local residents and growing numbers of people displaced by fighting elsewhere.

It saw one of Hajjah prov-

ince's highest jumps in the number of reported children suffering from severe acute malnutrition: From 384 cases in January, an additional 1,319 came in over the next six months. That comes to around 15 percent of the district's children.

There appeared to be multiple reasons why aid was not reaching some of the starving, beyond the rapid increase in those in need.

The lion's share of assistance goes to displaced people, with 20 percent going to the local community, said Azma Ali, a worker with the World Food Program. Agencies' criteria give priority for help to the displaced and households without a breadwinner, though local residents also struggle to find food.

Under heavy pressure from Houthi authorities, international agencies like WFP

and UNICEF and their Yemeni partners are required to use lists of needy provided by local officials.

Critics accuse those officials of favoritism. That especially works against the local population in Aslam, where many belong to the "Muhammasheen," Arabic for the "Marginalized," a community of darker-skinned Yemenis shunned by the rest of society and left to work as garbage collectors, menial laborers or beggars. The Marginalized have no weight with officials to ensure aid goes their way.

One humanitarian coordinator in Hajjah said local Houthi authorities distribute aid unfairly.

"The powerful hinder the work of the humanitarian agencies and deprive of aid those people who are in most need," he said. He spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of problems with the authorities.

Some residents said local officials demand bribes to get on food lists — the equivalent of around 15 U.S. cents, but still too much for many.

Food deliveries come irregularly or are too small or are missing items, residents and aid workers said.

People in Aslam have become increasingly reliant on leaves from the local Arabian Wax Leaf vine, known in Yemeni Arabic as "halas."

In the village of al-Mashrada, a 7-month-old girl, Zahra, cried and reached with her bony arms for her mother to feed her. Undernourished herself, her mother is often unable to breastfeed her. She can't afford formula. Zahra was recently treated at the health center but is dwindling away again. Her parents can't afford to hire a car or motorbike to take her back to the clinic. If they don't, Zahra will die, said Mahdi.

Zahra's mother said only "the big heads" — the better-off and well-connected — end up with international aid.

"We only have God. We are poor and we have nothing." □



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Monster typhoon barrels closer to north Philippines, China

By AARON FAVILA
JOEAL CALUPITAN

Associated Press

TUGUEGARAO, Philippines

(AP) — Typhoon Mangkhut retained its ferocious strength, gained speed and shifted slightly toward more densely populated coastal provinces on Friday as it barreled closer to the northeastern Philippines, where a massive evacuation was underway.

More than 5 million people are at risk from the storm, which the Hawaii-based Joint Typhoon Warning Center categorizes as a super typhoon with powerful winds and gusts equivalent to a category 5 Atlantic hurricane.

The typhoon was initially expected to hit the northern tip of Cagayan province early Saturday, but it is now likely to make landfall farther south near the middle of the rice-producing province. From there, Mangkhut is forecast to blow across the sparsely populated mountain province of Apayao and then over Ilocos Norte province before exiting into the sea Saturday night, state forecaster Rene Paciente said.

With a huge raincloud band 900 kilometers (560 miles) wide, combined with seasonal monsoon rains, the typhoon could bring heavy to intense rain that could set off landslides and flash floods. Storm warnings have been raised in almost all the provinces across the main northern island of Luzon, including the capital, Manila, restricting sea and air travel.

Mangkhut was tracked late Friday about 190 kilometers (118 miles) away in the Pacific with sustained winds of 205 kilometers (127 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 255 kph (158 mph), fore-



Workers cover windows of a hotel with sheets of plywood as Typhoon Mangkhut nears Cagayan province, northeastern Philippines on Friday, Sept. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

casters said. They said the fast-moving typhoon has gained speed as it moves northwestward at 30 kph (19 mph).

Even if the typhoon weakens slightly after slamming ashore, its winds will remain very destructive, Paciente said.

"It can lift cars, you can't stand, you can't even crawl against that wind," Paciente said at a news conference in Manila.

In Cagayan's capital city of Tuguegarao, residents braced for the typhoon's fury by reinforcing homes and buildings and stocking up on food.

"It was busy earlier in the hardware store and people were buying wood, nails, tin wire, plywood and umbrellas," said Benjamin Banez, who owns a three-story hotel where workers were busy hammering up wooden boards to protect glass panels.

A super typhoon wrought heavy damage to Banez's hotel and the rest of Cagayan in 2016. "We're praying that there will be less

damage this time, although we know that this one will be very strong," Banez said. Ninia Grace Abedes abandoned her bamboo hut and hauled her four children to a school building serving as an emergency shelter. The 33-year-old laundrywoman said the 2016 typhoon blew away their hut, which they abandoned before the storm hit. "If we didn't, all of us would be dead," Abedes said.

More than 15,300 people had been evacuated in northern provinces by Friday afternoon, the Office of Civil Defense said.

Concerns over massive storm surges that could be whipped inland by the typhoon's winds prompted wardens to move 143 detainees from a jail in Cagayan's Aparri town to nearby towns, officials said. The typhoon is approaching at the start of the rice and corn harvesting season in Cagayan, a major agricultural producer, and farmers were scrambling to save what they could of their crops, Cagayan Gov.

Manuel Mamba said. The threat to agriculture comes as the Philippines tries to cope with rice shortages.

After the Philippines, the Hong Kong Observatory predicts Mangkhut will plow into the Chinese mainland early Monday south of Hong Kong and north of the island province of Hainan. Though it is likely to weaken from a super typhoon to a severe typhoon, it will still be packing sustained winds of 175 kph (109 mph), it said.

The observatory warned of rough seas and frequent heavy squalls, urging residents of the densely populated financial hub to "take suitable precautions and pay close attention to the latest information" on the storm.

The gambling enclave of Macau, near Hong Kong, suffered catastrophic flooding during Typhoon Hato last August that left 10 dead and led to accusations of corruption and incompetence at its meteorological office.

On the Chinese mainland,

the three southern provinces of Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan are coordinating preparations, including suspending transport and moving people to shelter inland, the national meteorological agency reported. Guangdong, China's manufacturing hub, has set up 3,777 shelters, while more than 100,000 residents and tourists have been moved to safety or sent home. The province has recalled more than 36,000 fishing boats to port, while train services between the cities of Zhanjiang and Maoming have been suspended and all ferry services between Guangdong and Hainan have been put on hold. Fujian province to the north of Guangdong is also closing beaches and tourist sites, the agency reported.

Philippine forecasters said the shifting typhoon could possibly blow toward Vietnam after it exits late Saturday or early Sunday.

In an emergency meeting Thursday, President Rodrigo Duterte asked Cabinet officials from the north to help oversee disaster-response work and told reporters it was too early to consider seeking foreign aid.

"It would depend on the severity of the crisis," Duterte said. "If it flattens everything, maybe we need to have some help."

Mangkhut, the Thai word for mangosteen fruit, is the 15th storm this year to batter the Philippines, which is hit by about 20 a year and is considered one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

Typhoon Haiyan left more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattened entire villages, swept several ships inland and displaced over 5 million in the central Philippines in 2013. □

Evangelicals, growing force in Brazil, to impact elections

By MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — In a Brazilian presidential election marked by uncertainties, there is little doubt about one thing: Evangelical voters will have a major impact.

They could tip the balance thanks to their growing numbers, presence in remote areas and poor neighborhoods and organizational muscle, especially since corporations have been banned from making contributions directly to candidates in the wake of a the country's huge corruption scandal.

Attempts to woo evangelicals are apparent on the campaign trail ahead of the Oct. 7 election. In recent weeks, one leading candidate wept while receiving prayers during a service at an evangelical church. Another promised no legislative changes to Brazil's abortion ban. A third held meetings with several of the most influential pastors in Sao Paulo, Brazil's richest and most populist state.

"The evangelical vote is very organic in that pastors and bishops have a relationship with followers that influences how they vote," said Antonio Laveda, who has written several books on Brazilian politics. "It's the opposite in the Catholic Church, where, despite having more congregants, priests have less direct influence."

Evangelicals already have a large influence in national politics. The so-called "evangelical bloc" in Congress is made up of 87 representatives and three senators, about 15 percent of all federal lawmakers.

Their votes were instrumental in the 2016 impeachment and ouster of President Dilma Rousseff for illegally managing the federal budget. Joao Campos, a congressman and pastor who helped lead the bloc, said then that opposing Rousseff was a way to defend the poor who had lost jobs in the wake of scandals over kickbacks from



Geraldo Alckmin, presidential candidate with the Social Democratic Party, greets supporters as he campaigns in downtown Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018.

Associated Press

construction companies to politicians.

Evangelical voters in Rio de Janeiro also helped propel Marcelo Crivella, a bishop in the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, to mayor of Brazil's most famous city in 2016.

Brazil, a deeply religious country slightly larger than the continental U.S., is home to the world's largest number of Catholics — some 123 million, according to the latest census in 2010. But evangelicals are growing and now number 42 million, or about 20 percent of the total population.

And there is little comparison when it comes to political activism. While the Vatican frowns on clergy running for office, many evangelical leaders plunge into politics.

The influence of evangelicals extends into media. Edir Macedo, the founder of Crivella's church, owns Record TV, one of the larg-

est broadcasters in Brazil. Evangelical churches are also major buyers of airtime, so religious programs can be seen at just about any time of the day.

Silas Malafaia, one of the most influential pastors in Brazil, makes no apologies for trying to influence the votes of parishioners from his more than 50 churches. During a recent interview with The Associated Press, he said proudly he had helped elect 25 representatives and five senators. His own brother is a state representative for Rio de Janeiro.

"I help candidates get elected by lending them my image and words," said Malafaia, who from the pulpit and on social media argues that left-leaning candidates promote "moral garbage" with liberal stances on gay marriage and abortion.

Malafaia has been outspoken in his support for Jair Bolsonaro, a far-right con-

gressman and former army captain who has promised to crack down on crime and root out corruption in politics.

"In Brazil, we need a macho like him," Malafaia said, adding that Bolsonaro will "defend all the values and principals of the Christian family."

Last weekend, Malafaia visited Bolsonaro in the hospital, where the candidate was recovering after being stabbed during a campaign event Sept. 6.

"God is an expert in turning chaos into a blessing," Malafaia said in a video that he posted on YouTube from Bolsonaro's hospital room.

Albanita Alves, a housewife who attends Malafaia's Assembly of God Victory in Christ Church in Rio de Janeiro, says she will follow her pastor.

"We have the liberty to choose our candidate," Alves said. "But as a man of God, (Malafaia) has a wid-

er vision than we do, so it's important that we see his point of view."

Last month, Bolsonaro, who is Catholic, teared up while receiving a blessing at a Baptist church in Rio de Janeiro. Geraldo Alckmin, a former Sao Paulo governor who also is Catholic, was a special guest during a meeting of pastors in the state last month. Marina Silva, a former environmental minister who belongs to an evangelical church, recently promised evangelicals in Belo Horizonte, Brazil's third largest city, that any changes to abortion law would have to be done via plebiscite and not by Congress.

The evangelical vote could be more important than in the past because the electoral field is so splintered, with more than a dozen candidates scrambling for advantages.

Now that former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has been bumped off the ballot for a corruption conviction, Bolsonaro is leading in the polls — apparently with the aid of evangelical backers.

While he gets roughly 26 percent in polls of all voters, he is backed by 33 percent of voters who identify as evangelical, according to a poll by research institute Ibope released Tuesday.

Ten percent of evangelicals backed Alckmin and Marina Silva and 7 favored Ciro Gomes. Trailing behind so far was Fernando Haddad, who has taken over da Silva's spot for the left-leaning Workers' Party, though the poll was conducted before he received da Silva's formal endorsement for the presidential run. The poll interviewed 2,002 people Sept. 8-10 and had a margin of error of two percentage points.

"Today the candidates most in line with our values are Alckmin and Bolsonaro, but we still need to talk to them to know what each is proposing," said Bishop Robson Rodovalho, a founder of Sara Nossa Terra, a network of evangelical churches across Brazil. □

LOCAL



Crossing oceans against workplace harassment



NETHERLANDS/ARUBA - Karin Bosman, founder of foundation About Workplace Harassment (AWH), is committed to put workplace harassment on the agenda in Aruba and Curacao since 2015. Recently they widened their working area also to Bonaire and St. Maarten, in cooperation with Medwork for the introduction of the Report App.

"With latest findings of their follow-up research about sexual workplace harassment, it's clearer than ever

that people need more information and instruction about workplace harassment", Bosman says. Neglecting these results will be nothing more than denying the problem. 72% of the participants stated that they don't see their workplace as a safe environment, so it's time that Aruba addresses workplace harassment. The Report App will be supported by an Aruban foundation which will make sure that the App is being used in the proper way, which means

that policies, procedures and the support for the reporters must be in place at organizations that provide this smartphone app to their employees.

Report App

The Report App ensures employees to have access to information and instruction about workplace harassment 24/7. Support for the reporters comes from the professional or the internal or external confidential advisor, whom are all connected to the dash-

board of the Report App. It's a very safe and secured way of keeping a logbook about the incidents people experience as a victim or bystander, this logbook can be uploaded (no must) when people are ready to file their report to create a better place for themselves at work. The foundation in Aruba will make sure that training and advise is available for local confidential advisors, furthermore the foundation will support confidential advisors who experience resistance from their superiors in handling a complaint or report from an employee.

Before AWH visited Aruba, Bosman presented the workshop About Sexual Workplace Harassment for

the US Consul in Curacao. "There wasn't enough time to go through all the sheets because of the new and unique dilemma game AWH, which created a very interesting discussion about what is needed to create a safer and healthier workplace", Bosman said. People are very afraid to speak- and stand-up for victims who experience(d) workplace harassment, lack of a well implemented policy and knowledge about the subject are one of the reasons creating this problem.

Aruba App-Ready

On Wednesday, September 5 th AWH presented the Report App in Aruba in the Surfside Marina complex.

Continued on Page 14



Continued from Page 13

Besides the smartphone app the audience was instructed about the role of the confidential advisor/counsellor and in which way they can be a valuable contribution to organizations who are willing to address unwanted behavior. The training for the confidential advisor followed later that week on Thursday and Friday, and it was very successful. "We had a very inspiring group and it was an eye opener for the most of them", Bosman said. "It was great to see them leave with so many new insights and a lot of inspiration to make some change in their work environment."

Besides organizations, AWH has also visited the government of Aruba, unfortunately the labor inspection and the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Affairs, Mr. Glenbert F. Croes, cancelled their appointment with AWH to discuss the

subject of workplace harassment. But the minister of Education, Science and Sustainable Development, Armando Lampe, cleared his agenda for AWH and they talked about the need of creating awareness about this topic and to empower people to stand and speak up about workplace harassment. Tackling a problem like this has to be carried by the community, we need to educate, inform and instruct on how to define, recognize and prevent our workplaces and schools from harassment in an active manner. The minister mentioned the importance to combine the strengths of the Aruban business and government into an informative empowerment campaign. That's why Bosman will return multiple times a year to keep addressing workplace harassment again and again. In October she will also present her workshop during the SHRM Garden State Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey and in November for SHRM HR Martin County in Stuart, Florida.



den State Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey and in November for SHRM HR Martin County in Stuart, Florida.

Bosman is still looking for a new challenge to create awareness for sexual harassment, last December

she walked from NYC to Washington DC, perhaps this time she can swim from Aruba to Curacao (lol). □

ARUBA ART FAIR



SAN NICOLAAS — Aruba Art Fair is a yearly art festi-

val where international artists and local artists create

street art. The Aruba Art fair consists of different elements such as a Culinary Art Competition, Building Take Overs (Visual Art), Art TV Program, Art Magazine, School Art Contest, Sculpture Making and the 3-Day Art Fair in San Nicolas.

The 3-day fair in San Nicolas is where local and international artists perform live art and display their masterpieces. The fair is combined with other forms of art such as music, dance and other creative forms of expression.

The very first edition of the Aruba Art Fair launched in Aruba's San Nicolas in September 2016. 10,000+ art lovers visited the fair to browse and buy 100s of original contemporary paintings, sculptures, photographs and prints in a different and friendly environment. In 2018 they will now welcome over 10,000 art enthusiasts to their art fair, where they can find a mix of local, national and international artists and galleries showcasing a wide array of affordable art-

works by established artists and rising stars. They hold many events throughout the year, but only 1 Aruba Art Fair. Each day of the 3-day event is filled with a creative plate of artist, performances, innovative talks and tours, hands-on workshops, kid's activities, live music and irresistible restaurants and bars; making them an ideal day out with family and friends. It's no wonder that since their beginning in 2016, over 20,000 people have visited Aruba Art Fair, taking home pieces of artwork to loving new homes.

OSCAR "TITO" BOLIVAR-FOUNDER & ORGANIZER

Oscar "Tito" Bolivar- Founder and Organizer

"It all started back in 2015 after a visit to Bogota, Colombia. After seeing how art was everywhere on the streets and connecting people, I went back to Aruba and the concept of the Aruba Art Fair was born.

In 2016 we started Artisa showcasing works from a pool of over 150 relatively unknown artists. And with

15 muralist, art was brought to the dead streets of San Nicolas. Everyone loved the relaxed atmosphere in which they were free to take their time browsing the work. What remains constant is the emphasis on accessibility, education and innovation, to ensure a fun day out surrounded by great art is had by all!"

Looking for young Artists

Celebrating its 3rd year, the Aruba Art Fair gives the young artists an opportunity to shine at the fair. Bringing together young up-and-coming artists between the ages of 8 and 17, the Youth Art Fair showcases their talent while allowing them to display, discuss and sell their artwork.

Works include everything from painting to wood working and jewelry. This art fair component is an excellent opportunity for youth artists to showcase their work and experience an art fair alongside experience artists. More information on how to be part of it you will find on their website www.arubaartfair.com. □

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Honoring at Casa del Mar

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Darline S. de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and Friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The Honorees are Mr. Victor Gonzalez and Mrs. Lolimar Pacheco, residents of Venezuela, who have been coming to Aruba for more than 15 consecutive years and are staying at Casa Del Mar Beach Club. The honorees love the island very much, the sunset, the weather, the people of Aruba and the tranquility they find here.

Darline together with representatives of Casa del Mar presented the certificate

to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their

vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □



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Aruba Tourism Authority launches a new website.

ORANJESTAD — In order to maintain the partners and the community updated on what is going on in the tourism industry, Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) launched a digital platform www.arubainsight.com. Which is accessible to all businessmen, students, press and the entire community.

It is common for Aruba Tourism Authority to inform of its tourism figures on a monthly basis. Now all this information will be available on the platform with the possibility for the user to make his own analysis. The platform offers a lot of information including a monthly newspaper called "Aruba Product Update". Besides this a series of weekly television segments called "Nos Turismo" will also be available. Press releases and the Aruba Certification Program can also be viewed on this platform. Studies such as Economic

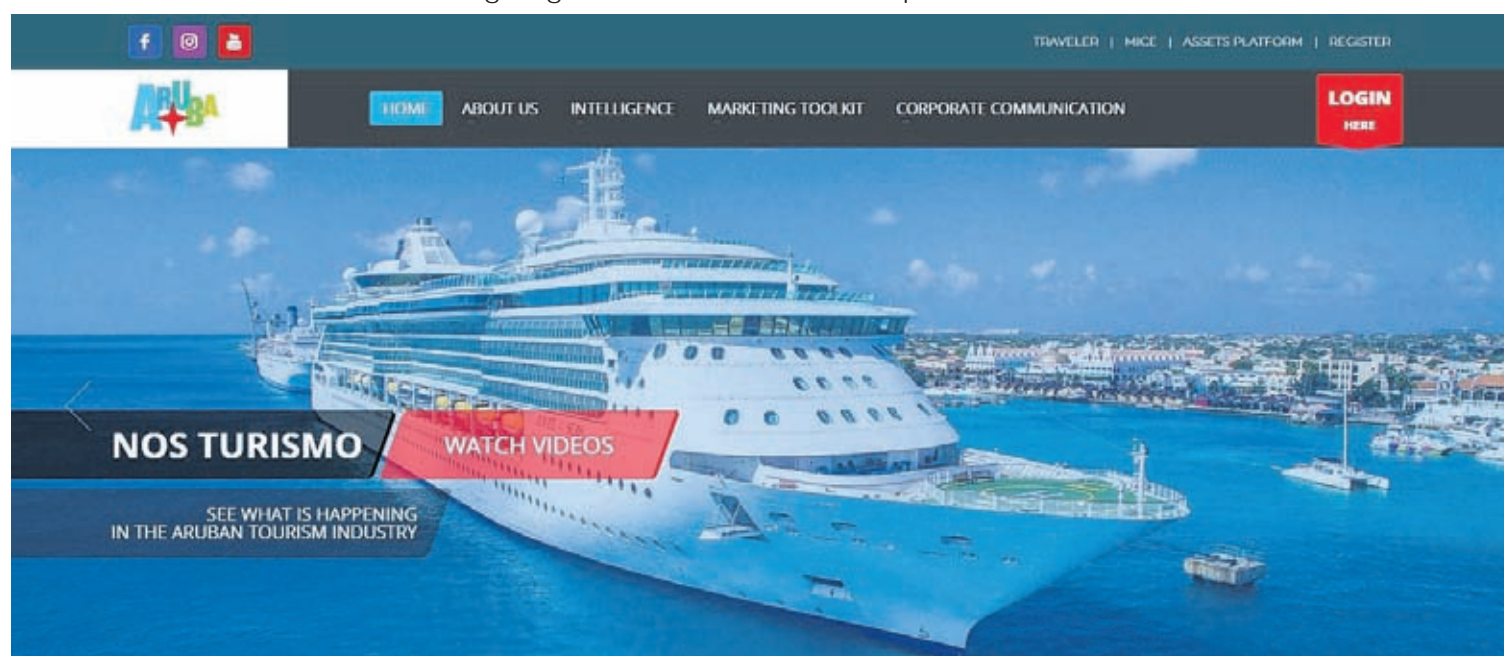
Impact of the Aruba Wedding Market', The Shopping Experience, a needs and gaps analysis 'Affluent Survey' and many more conducted by A.T.A can also be found here. Also the plan "Cu mira pa future", a look into the future, regarding development of the tourism product will also be available on the website.

The arubainsight.com is a very attractive page and easy to scroll.

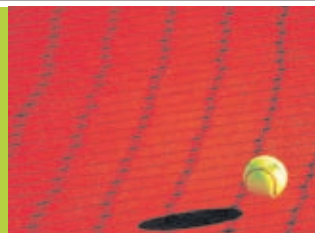
For the public there will be easy access to general information such as the monthly statistics, upcoming events and general information about A.T.A and its projects. For those wanting to gather informa-

tion about our visitors you will have to register on the platform and from there you will gain access to 48 hours in order to acquire the necessary information. Seeing that tourism is the main source of economy of Aruba this is surely valuable for the students but also for the businessmen and the partners who de-

pends on such information for different factors. With this platform Aruba Tourism Authority expands its efforts to maintain the community informed on local development for the tourism. For more information, suggestion or feedback visit www.arubainsight.com □



SPORTS



NFL This Week

Tom Brady vs. Jaguars is one-sided confrontation



In this Jan. 21, 2018 file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady gives a shout as he takes the field to warm up before the AFC championship NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

By **BARRY WILNER**

If there's ever going to be a changing of the guard in the AFC, then Sunday's visit to Jacksonville by the Patriots would seem a perfect time.

Except when you look at the numbers that say Tom Brady doesn't lose to the Jaguars.

Ever.

Jacksonville had a 10-point lead at New England in the second half of the AFC championship game last January when Brady worked his magic, helped mightily by the Jaguars' discomfort being so close to making the Super Bowl. It shouldn't have been a surprise in this matchup: Brady now is 8-0 against the Jags, the only AFC team without a win against the five-time Super Bowl champion and three-time league MVP. He has 19 TDs and two interceptions against Jacksonville while completing more than 70 percent of his passes for more than 1,800 yards.

Continued on Page 19

Training Camp Primer

Capitals try to forget Cup celebrations as NHL camps open



In this March 3, 2018, file photo, Dallas Stars' Tyler Seguin (91) celebrates their 3-2 overtime win in an NHL hockey game against the St. Louis Blues in Dallas.

Associated Press

AP Hockey Writer

When Alex Ovechkin embraced Josh Norman in a meeting of two of Washington's biggest sports stars, the Redskins cornerback had a question for the Capitals' Stanley Cup-winning captain.

"You still celebrating?" Norman asked. "We're done," Ovechkin said. "We're done for right now." The Capitals seemed to celebrate as hard as any champion in NHL history. When they get on the ice for the first practices of training camp Friday, they will be just one of 31 teams chasing a title all over again. "We have to forget already about that

and focus," center Evgeny Kuznetsov said. "We have to move forward. When you taste that win, you want to do it over again. To do that, it's not easy."

A year after being written off as title contenders, the Capitals are now a focal point of the NHL as camps open. Elsewhere in the Eastern Conference, the rival Penguins will look to rebound from a second-round postseason exit, the Lightning are stacked even after general manager Steve Yzerman stepped down and the Maple Leafs look like Cup favorites after adding John Tavares.

Continued on Page 23

Gonzalez, Reed, Fletcher, Bailey 1st-year HOF nominees

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

Tony Gonzalez, the most accomplished tight end in NFL history, Ed Reed, Champ Bailey and London Fletcher are first-year eligible players among the 102 modern-era nominees for the class of 2019 for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Gonzalez retired in 2013 after 17 pro seasons in which he had 1,325 receptions, second to Jerry Rice on the career list. A college basketball and football star at California, he was drafted 13th overall by the Chiefs in 1997 and played a dozen seasons in Kansas City. Gonzalez spent his final five seasons with Atlanta, finishing with 111 touchdown catches and 15,127 yards receiving. He made six All-



In this Oct. 7, 2013, file photo, Atlanta Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez (88) moves the ball after a catch as New York Jets cornerback Darrin Walls (30) defends during the second half of an NFL football game in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Pro teams and was a member of the all-decade team for 2000-10.

Reed and Bailey were standout defensive backs

for stout units. The 24th overall draft selection in 2002, Reed played 11 seasons in Baltimore, three times leading the league in

interceptions. Among his 64 career picks were returns for touchdowns of 106 and 107 yards. He made five All-Pro squads, was the 2004

Defensive Player of the Year, and joined Gonzalez on the all-decade team. Reed won a Super Bowl in the 2012 season.

Bailey began his career with Washington in 1999 as the seventh overall draft choice. He moved to Denver in 2004, and led the NFL in interceptions with 10 in 2006. Bailey, who also dabbled on offense, had 52 career picks, made three All-Pro teams and, yes, also was on the all-decade team of 2000-2010.

Fletcher became a starting linebacker in St. Louis in 1999 and won a Super Bowl. A rare undrafted player to be nominated for the Hall of Fame, he missed only one start from 1999-2013 with the Rams, Bills and Redskins. Fletcher made four Pro Bowls and finished his career with 1,380 tackles, 23 interceptions and 39 sacks.

Finalists from 2018 who are nominated again include running back Edgerrin James; wide receiver Isaac Bruce; offensive linemen Kevin Mawae, Steve Hutchinson, Alan Faneca and Tony Boselli; safety John Lynch; and cornerback Ty Law.

The roster of nominees has 47 offensive players, 39 defensive players, five special teams players and 11 coaches. Among those coaches are Super Bowl champions Bill Cowher, Tom Flores, Mike Holmgren, Jimmy Johnson and Dick Vermeil.

The modern-era nominees will be reduced to 25 semi-finalists in November and, from there, to 15 finalists in January. A senior committee finalist, former Chiefs defensive back Johnny Robinson, and two finalists from the contributors category, Broncos owner Pat Bowlen and former Cowboys executive and current NFL consultant Gil Brandt, also have been nominated.

Voting by the 48-member Hall of Fame panel will be held Feb. 2, the day before the Super Bowl, in Atlanta. Inductions in the Canton, Ohio, shrine will be in early August. □



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NFL THIS WEEK

Continued from Page 17

So solving Brady, as it is for most teams, is a must for Jacksonville in this battle of opening-game winners that could wind up pivotal for the AFC playoffs.

"It's going to be an emotional environment," Brady said. "I think everyone, whenever you play some of the best teams, you want to see where you're measured up to, and that defense has been ranked very high all last year, and I could see why. We practiced against them. They were very good. They've got a lot of very talented players — some of the guys that are probably the best at their position. So, it's going to be a great environment for football."

Brady has 224 career wins, one shy of the NFL record held by kicker Adam Vinatieri, whose Colts are at Washington.

Jacksonville could be short-handed in a key area: running back Leonard Fournette has hamstringing issues, and the Jags need a strong running game to keep Brady on the sideline.

T.J. Yeldon would get the start if Fournette can't go.

"He has always been good," coach Doug Marrone says of Yeldon. "I think he is more explosive. He's stronger. He's elusive. I think he can carry a load of carries."

The weekend began with Cincinnati's 34-23 home victory over Baltimore. Andy Dalton threw four touchdown passes in the first half — three to A.J. Green — to help the Bengals improve to 2-0. The Ravens are 1-1. Philadelphia (1-0) at Tampa Bay (1-0)

One reason the Eagles had the NFC's best record in 2017 was a 6-2 road mark. They were sloppy yet victorious in their opener at home against Atlanta and haven't played since Sept. 6. Nick Foles gets the call at quarterback again with Carson Wentz still not ready, though Philly's running game with Jay Ajayi, who had two touchdowns last week, and strong defense could decide things. The Buccaneers come off an impressive upset win at New Orleans in which Ryan Fitzpatrick showed why he has been a quality fill-in passer for years.

He threw for a career-best 417 yards, four TDs, and had no interceptions against the Saints. He also scored a rushing TD.

FitzMagic indeed.

Kansas City (1-0) at Pittsburgh (0-0-1)

As ugly as the Steelers' performance was in the rain in Cleveland, that's how pretty Chiefs fan think their team's work was in Los Angeles.

But this is a nightmare matchup for KC: The Steelers have won seven of the last eight vs. the Chiefs, who are 0-6 in Pittsburgh since 1986. Plus, the Steelers are 15-2 in home openers at Heinz Field.

Two of the NFL's most dynamic wideouts go at it here: All-Pro Antonio Brown for Pittsburgh, WR-KR Tyreek Hill for Kansas City. Don't take your eyes off the field. Minnesota (1-0) at Green Bay (1-0)

Right up until kickoff, the fans at Lambeau Field will be holding their breath to see if Aaron Rodgers can go. Green Bay is in massive trouble if he can't, as last



In this Sept. 9, 2018, file photo, Green Bay Packers' Aaron Rodgers walks off the field after an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears, in Green Bay, Wis. Right up until kickoff, the fans at Lambeau Field will be holding their breath to see if Aaron Rodgers can go against the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

Associated Press

week's heroic performance by A-Rod in the comeback victory over Chicago showed.

"Yeah, well, you know he walks on water, so I'm sure he's going to play," Minnesota coach Mike Zimmer said.

The Vikings aren't the Bears and won't likely be playing passively if they get a lead. Not with that dynamic defense that handed Jimmy Garoppolo his first pro defeat in the opener.

Carolina (1-0) at Atlanta (0-1)

Not only did the Falcons falter in Philly in their opener, they had two significant long-term injuries with safety Keanu Neal and linebacker Deion Jones. The defense kept them in the Eagles game while Matt Ryan struggled. Sure, he completed 10 passes for 169 yards to Julio Jones, but

Ryan generally was off the mark.

Carolina has its own injury woes, losing star TE Greg Olsen with a foot problem. Its defense was super stingy against Dallas, with LB Luke Kuechly in on 13 tackles. Miami (1-0) at New York Jets (1-0)

Barring a tie — and we all know those never happen in the NFL, right? — one of these teams will be a surprising 2-0 Sunday night.

The Dolphins come off the longest NFL game since the 1970 merger, outlasting Tennessee in 7 hours, 8 minutes, including 3:59 in multiple weather delays. RB Frank Gore has 14,087 career yards rushing and needs 15 to surpass the Jets' greatest runner, Curtis Martin (14,101), for fourth place on the NFL's list.

Sam Darnold threw a pick-6 on his first pro attempt,

then reversed things with aplomb at Detroit. The Jets' defense deserves the highest accolades for making Matthew Stafford look like an inept rookie, something Darnold didn't resemble beyond that opening pass. Cleveland (0-0-1) at New Orleans (0-1)

Oh yeah, they do have ties, which for the Browns is a monumental achievement considering they lost all 16 games in 2017 and were 1-15 the previous year. Oddly, the Browns overwhelmingly lead this series 13-4, winning five of the last six meetings.

WR Michael Thomas had a Saints single-game record 16 catches last week for 180 yards and a score.

Drew Brees will target him often, sometimes against rookie Denzel Ward, who had two picks of Ben Roethlisberger in the opener. □



Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Andy Dalton throws in the first half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

Andy Dalton throws 4 TDs, Bengals beat Ravens 34-23

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Andy Dalton kept the Ravens out of the playoffs last year by throwing a long touchdown pass. He sent them to another loss on Thursday night by throwing four more, getting the best of a defense that has bedeviled him for much of his career. Dalton threw four touchdown passes in the first half — three to A.J. Green — and the Cincinnati Bengals held on for a 34-23 victory over Baltimore that made them the early leaders in the AFC North.

Dalton knocked the Ravens (1-1) out of postseason contention last season by throwing a 49-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Boyd in the closing seconds of the final game in Baltimore. On Thursday, he carved up a defense that has more often gotten the upper hand in their rivalry, leading Cincinnati (2-0) to an early 21-point lead.

"We came out hot," Dalton said. "That's exactly how we wanted to start the game. That's a big one — puts us 2-0 to start the year and gives us a leg up in the division."

Heading into the game, Dalton had thrown more interceptions (17) than touchdowns (15) against the Ravens, including a four-interception game at Paul Brown Stadium last season. Dalton finished 24 of 42 for 265 yards, throwing four touchdown passes for the fifth time in his career.

Green set the tone with touchdown catches of 4, 28 and 7 yards on consecutive possessions, a career high. Upset that he fumbled twice during a 34-23 win at Indianapolis on Sunday, he caught every-

thing near him during the Bengals' early surge. Green finished with five catches for 69 yards.

"It just happened to fall that way," Green said. "We were clicking on all cylinders. We were in a groove."

The Ravens switched up their coverage on Green but couldn't stop him in the opening half.

"We did all that and he still made some great plays," coach John Harbaugh said.

Dalton's 14-yard touchdown throw to Boyd made it 28-7 late in the first half.

Joe Flacco was sharp in an opening 47-3 win over the Bills, but couldn't do anything against Cincinnati until the Bengals led by three touchdowns. Flacco threw a pair of touchdown passes, including a 21-yarder to John Brown that cut it to 28-23 with 9:35 left.

"You better bounce back quick on a Thursday night and we didn't do it quick enough tonight," Flacco said.

Flacco fumbled with 2:42 to go — Shawn Williams stripped the ball from behind — setting up a field goal by Randy Bullock that closed it out. Flacco finished 32 of 55 for 376 yards with two touchdowns, two interceptions and four sacks.

"We were coming in waves all night," rookie defensive end Sam Hubbard said. "Whoever was fresh was going out and making plays."

GLORY DAYS

The Bengals honored their 1988 Super Bowl team at halftime, their last team to go deep into the playoffs. They haven't won a playoff game since the 1990 season, the sixth-longest drought in NFL history.

PRIME-TIME PLAYERS

The Ravens had their streak of five straight Thursday night wins snapped. The Bengals are 6-14 in prime-time games since Dalton's rookie season of 2011 — 0-5 on Sunday night, 2-5 on Monday night, 4-3 on Thursday night and 0-1 on Saturday night.

SEEING GREEN

Green is the fourth Bengals receiver to catch three TD passes in a half, joining Marvin Jones (2013), Chad Johnson (2003) and Isaac Curtis (1973).

FAST START

The Bengals are 2-0 for the first time since 2015, when they won the division, and for only the fifth time during coach Marvin Lewis' 16 seasons. They're the first team to score at least 34 points in each of their first two games since the 2013 Broncos, who reached the Super Bowl, according to ESPN Stats & Info.

FAN ON FIELD

A young man in a black shirt ran onto the field in the closing minutes undetected until he got near Dalton. The fan was grabbed by security.

INJURIES

Ravens: LB C.J. Mosley left in the first quarter with a bruised knee. Harbaugh said an exam found no ligament damage, but Mosley could be sidelined for a while.

Bengals: Preston Brown was inactive with an injured right ankle, leaving Cincinnati without two top linebackers. Vontaze Burfict is suspended for the first four games for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing substances. ... DE Michael Johnson hurt his left knee in the first quarter and didn't return. ... Rookie C Billy Price hurt his right ankle in the first quarter and didn't return. □

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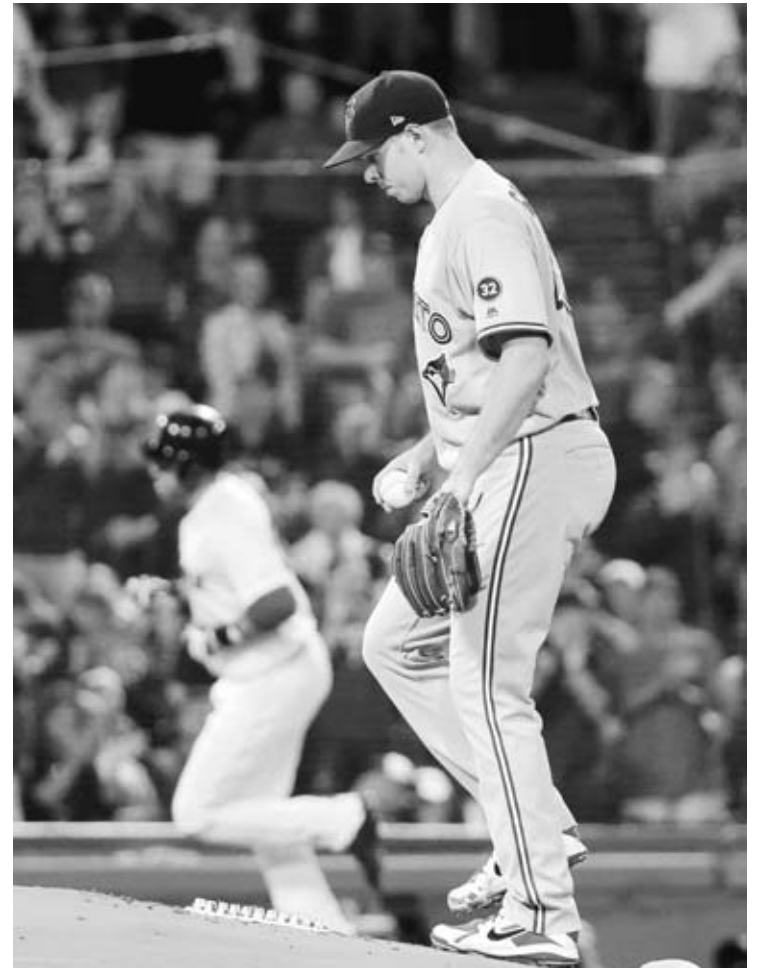
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J.D. Martinez hits 41st HR, Red Sox sweep Blue Jays

By The Associated Press
BOSTON (AP) — J.D. Martinez hit his 41st home run and the Boston Red Sox moved closer to winning the AL East title, completing a three-game sweep of the Toronto Blue Jays with a 4-3 victory Thursday night. Xander Bogaerts scored the go-ahead run on an eighth-inning error after the Blue Jays rallied in the top half with two runs to tie it 3-all. Rafael Devers also homered for the major league-leading Red Sox (101-46). They pulled 10 1/2 games ahead of the idle New York Yankees and decreased their magic number to six for clinching a third straight division crown. Boston is the only team in the majors that's already locked up a playoff berth. Brandon Workman (5-0) faced one batter, ending Toronto's eighth-inning rally, and got the win. Craig Kimbrel earned his 40th save. Danny Barnes (3-3) took the loss. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. homered for the Blue Jays. **ORIOLES 5, ATHLETICS 3**
BALTIMORE (AP) — Dylan Bundy had eight strikeouts

in six solid innings, and Baltimore ended Oakland's six-game winning streak. Stephen Piscotty homered for the A's. They fell 3 1/2 games behind first-place Houston in the AL West and 1 1/2 back of the Yankees for the top wild-card slot. Oakland activated lefty Brett Anderson from the 10-day disabled list to make his 14th start of the season. In his return from a forearm injury, Anderson (3-5) allowed four runs and didn't make it out of the fourth inning. Bundy (8-14) gave up two runs and six hits to earn his first win since July 29. Though he yielded his major league-high 38th home run, Bundy was good enough to help Baltimore snap a six-game skid and avoid being swept for the 22nd time. Mychal Givens finished for his seventh save. **ROYALS 6, TWINS 4**
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Salvador Perez and Jorge Bonifacio hit back-to-back homers during a four-run sixth inning, Heath Fillmyer pitched into the eighth and Kansas City beat Minnesota. The Royals were hitless until

Hunter Dozier greeted Alan Busenitz, the Twins' third pitcher in the game, with a leadoff double to left field in the sixth. Perez followed with a 420-foot drive to left field to put the Royals ahead 3-2, and then Bonifacio hit one into the Twins' bullpen off Busenitz (4-1), who didn't record an out. Adalberto Mondesi added an RBI single as the Royals sent 10 batters to the plate. Fillmyer (3-1) worked 7 1/3 innings, allowing four runs on five hits and matching his career high with six strikeouts. He left in the eighth with runners on the corners, both of whom eventually scored against relievers Brian Flynn and Brandon Maurer. Jerry Vasto got the last out in the eighth, and Wily Peralta worked a perfect ninth for his 11th save in 11 opportunities. **MARINERS 8, ANGELS 2**
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Nelson Cruz hit a three-run homer, Mike Leake pitched seven strong innings and Seattle started a 10-game road trip with a victory over Los Angeles. Cruz's three-run shot to



Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Sam Gaviglio, right, looks down as Boston Red Sox's J.D. Martinez rounds third on a solo home run in the second inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, in Boston.

Associated Press

center field in the fourth was his eighth homer this season against the Angels, the most a player has had in one year against the franchise, according to Baseball-Reference. Leake (10-9) threw a season-high 114 pitches (80 strikes), allowing one run and four hits with a walk and five strikeouts. His only

costly mistake came in the seventh when Justin Upton homered. After going 0-5 in July and August, Leake has won two straight starts for the first time since June 12. Angels starter Odrisamer Despaigne (0-3) went one-plus inning, giving up three runs and four hits while facing eight batters. □

Mariners' Paxton, Hernandez will miss starts vs. Anaheim



Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Felix Hernandez throws against the New York Yankees during the third inning of a baseball game Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018, in Seattle.

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Seattle pitchers James Paxton and Felix Hernandez will not make their scheduled starts this weekend against the Los Angeles Angels. Mariners manager Scott Servais said before Thursday's series opener that Paxton and Hernandez did not accompany the team to Anaheim. Paxton, who

was slated to go on Friday, is dealing with pneumonia. Hernandez left last Saturday's game against the Yankees with hamstring tightness. Servais did not name a starter for Friday, saying the Mariners will go with a bullpen day. Right-hander Erasmo Ramirez will start Saturday, and left-hander

Marco Gonzales will pitch Sunday. Servais said he expects Paxton to be able to return sometime during the last two weeks of the season. The left-hander, who pitched a no-hitter on May 8 at Toronto, is 11-6 with a 3.83 ERA. His career high for wins is 12, set last season. □

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Arenado, Story homer to help Rockies beat D-backs 10-3

By The Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story homered, Kyle Freeland pitched effectively into the seventh, and Colorado beat Arizona to extend its NL West lead.

David Dahl had three hits and two RBIs to help Colorado take a two-game lead over Los Angeles and a 4 1/2-game advantage over the third-place Diamondbacks. Los Angeles played Thursday night at St. Louis.

Diamondbacks right-hander Clay Buchholz was scratched from the start because of tightness in his right elbow. Matt Koch (5-5) started in his place and allowed four runs on eight hits in three innings.

A.J. Pollock homered for Arizona. The Diamondbacks are 3-12 in September. They lost 5-4 on Wednesday night when DJ LeMahieu hit a two-run homer off Yoshihisa Hirano in the ninth inning.

Freeland (15-7) allowed only two hits and one run through six innings before giving up a triple to Steven Souza Jr. and a double to Nick Ahmed in the seventh. **DODGERS 9, CARDINALS 7 ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Manny Machado homered and drove in three runs to back Clayton Kershaw, and Los Angeles beat St. Louis in the opener of a four-game series between playoff contenders. The Dodgers snapped a



Colorado Rockies' Nolan Arenado follows the flight of his solo home run off Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Matt Koch in the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018, in Denver.

Associated Press

five-game losing streak against the Cardinals and moved within one game of St. Louis for the final NL wild-card spot. The Cardinals, who went 22-6 in August, lost their second straight game and fell to 5-7 in September.

Kershaw (8-5), pitching at Busch Stadium for the first time since taking the loss in Game 4 of the 2014 NL division series, struck out eight in six innings, allowing four runs — three earned — on eight hits and two walks. Austin Gomber (5-1) was the loser.

Machado went 3 for 4, and his solo homer in the sev-

enth traveled 417 feet to center.

METS 4, MARLINS 3, 1ST GAME

METS 5, MARLINS 2, 2ND GAME

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Conforto and Todd Frazier hit back-to-back homers with two outs in the ninth inning, and New York stunned Miami in the first game of a doubleheader sweep.

Conforto drove in three more runs in the second game, and Jason Vargas pitched six effective innings to help the Mets win again. In the opener, Kyle Barraclough entered with one out in the ninth and retired

pinch-hitter Dominic Smith before Conforto lined a 1-0 changeup into the second deck in right to tie it. Frazier then hit a 1-1 pitch to left center field for his first walk-off homer since June 2015 for Cincinnati.

Barraclough (0-6) blew a save for the seventh time in 17 opportunities. Jerry Blevins (3-2) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win. Rookie starter Sandy Alcántara befuddled the Mets, permitting just two hits, with his only real blemish coming off the bat of the opposing pitcher. Steven Matz hit his first career homer, a two-run shot in

the second inning to tie it at 2. Peter O'Brien and Isaac Galloway went deep in the top of the second against Matz.

In the second game, rookie Tomas Nido got New York on the board in the fifth with his first big league homer, a solo shot off Jeff Brigham (0-2). Vargas (6-9) allowed two runs on three hits, and Robert Gsellman worked around a two-out walk in the ninth for his 11th save.

CUBS 4, NATIONALS 3, 10 INNING

WASHINGTON (AP) — Javier Baez drove in the go ahead run with a bunt single in the 10th inning, and Chicago beat Washington in a makeup of a game postponed earlier in the week.

Kris Bryant doubled with one out in the 10th against Sean Doolittle (3-3) and moved to third on ex-National Daniel Murphy's infield single. Baez, who homered in the sixth and drove in three on the day, bunted just to the right of first baseman Ryan Zimmerman to score Bryant.

Baez has 31 homers and leads the NL with 103 RBIs. Chicago stretched its lead in the NL Central to 1 1/2 games over idle Milwaukee. Pedro Strop (6-1) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings for Chicago, and Randy Rosario worked the 10th for his first career save. Spencer Kieboom homered for the Nationals. □

Anchor who called Trump a white supremacist leaving ESPN



In this is a Feb. 3, 2017, file photo Jemele Hill attends ESPN: The Party 2017 in Houston, Texas.

Associated Press

By PAT EATON-ROBB

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP) — Outspoken ESPN personality Jemele Hill announced Friday that she is leaving the company after 12 years as a commentator, anchor, reporter and writer.

Hill attracted attention last year and was briefly suspended for opinionated messages on social media, including a tweet that referenced President Donald Trump as a "white supremacist who has largely surrounded himself w/ other white supremacists."

She also targeted Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones after he stated that players who disrespect the flag would not play for his team. Her suspension came after she tweeted that fans who disagree with Jones should target the team's advertisers and not buy the team's merchandise.

Hill posted on social media that Friday would be her last day at ESPN.

"This was the place where I became the best version of myself, both personally and professionally," she

wrote. "However, the time has come for me to begin a new chapter in my life." Hill became a rising star at ESPN while hosting the opinion-based talk show "His & Hers" with Michael Smith. Smith and Hill were later tapped to host a personality-driven 6 p.m. edition of the network's signature "SportsCenter" program. She left that role in January and went to work primarily for The Undeclared, a company website that concentrates on issues of sports, race and culture. □

TRAINING CAMP PRIMER

Continued from Page 17

The Western Conference-champion Golden Knights won't have Nate Schmidt for any game in the pre-season or the first 20 of the regular season after a performance-enhancing drug suspension, while the Blues loaded up on centers in a bid to move past recent playoff disappointments — like the Capitals did a year ago.

Some things to watch from training camps around the league:

ERIK GOES WEST

The NHL was busy Thursday with the Dallas Stars re-signing Tyler Seguin to a \$78.8 million, eight-year extension, the Hurricanes naming Justin Williams captain and announcing Victor Rask is out indefinitely after slicing two fingers in a kitchen accident, and the Coyotes giving the "C" to Oliver Ekman-Larsson. Oh, and the Sharks acquired star defenseman Erik Karlsson in a blockbuster trade with Ottawa.

"It still came as a shock and not something I prepared for or could've prepared myself for," Karlsson said, adding that he hopes to be in San Jose for camp sooner than later after visa issues get worked out.

Sharks general manager Doug Wilson said they were

"looking for a difference-maker." After missing out on Tavares, they got one in Karlsson and shifted the balance of power in the Western Conference.

TRYOUT TIME

At least 20 players will attend camps on professional tryout agreements, with defenseman Brandon Davidson in Chicago and winger Scottie Upshall in Edmonton among those most likely to earn a contract. The Oilers — who have the selling point of playing with Connor McDavid — also invited defenseman Jason Garrison and former Capitals forward Alex Chiosson to camp. Edmonton is the land of opportunity this month after missing the playoffs by 17 points last season. The young Bruins are bringing in veterans Daniel Winnik, Lee Stempniak and Mark Fayne on tryouts. Each one will have to wow the coaching staff to make it.

WHO'S NOT THERE

A handful of restricted free agents remain unsigned around the league, including Maple Leafs forward William Nylander, Golden Knights defenseman Shea Theodore and Oilers defenseman Darnell Nurse. Nylander wasn't listed on Toronto's 73-player training camp roster released Wednesday. RFAs lack le-



In this July 3, 2018, file photo, Washington Capitals NHL hockey new head coach Todd Reirden answers questions from members of the media after a news conference in Arlington, Va. The celebrating is over for now for the Capitals after partying as hard as any champion in NHL history. Reirden is one of six new coaches, but he has been on Barry Trotz's staff the past four seasons and had a hand in winning the Cup last season.

Associated Press

verage and time, with the season coming up fast next month. Still, such situations are usually resolved before the opener and Nylander, Nurse, Theodore and the others should all sign before Oct. 3.

NEW COACHES

Washington's Todd Reirden is one of six new coaches, but he has been on Barry Trotz's staff the past four seasons and had a hand in winning the Cup. Rod Brind'Amour has plenty of familiarity with the Hurri-

canes after seven seasons as an assistant but an entirely different challenge as he looks to end a league-worst nine-year playoff drought. New faces in new places include Trotz taking his Cup ring to the Islanders, former Carolina coach Bill Peters in Calgary, Jim Montgomery in Dallas and David Quinn with the Rangers. Peters faces big expectations in trying to get the Flames back to contending status in the West.

ROOKIE WATCH

Buffalo No. 1 pick Rasmus Dahlin is the player to watch in the preseason to see if the smooth-skating Swedish defenseman can make the NHL look as effortless as previous endeavors. Dahlin will make the Sabres' roster and could contribute immediately on a blue line that needs it. A handful of other top-10 picks have a chance to play on opening night, including Carolina's Andrei Svechnikov, Ottawa's Brady Tkachuk and Detroit's Filip Zadina. □

Yates increases Spanish Vuelta lead ahead of final stages

SANT JULIA DE LORIA, Andorra (AP) — Simon Yates moved closer to winning the Spanish Vuelta for the first time after gaining more than a minute on Alejandro Valverde in Friday's 19th stage, which was won by Thibaut Pinot.

Pinot outlasted Yates at the end of the final climb in the tiny nation of Andorra, crossing the line five seconds ahead of the British rider for his second stage win in this year's Vuelta. Valverde finished eighth, more than a minute behind.

Yates will take a lead of 1 minute, 38 seconds over Valverde into Saturday's 97.3-kilometer (60.4-mile) 20th stage, a short but very demanding ride over six categorized climbs. The three-week Grand Tour



Groupama's Team Thibaut Pinot of France, celebrates on the podium after winning the 15th stage between Ribera de Arriba and Lagos de Covadonga, 178.2 kilometers (110.72 miles), in the Spanish Vuelta cycling race that finishes in Lagos de Covadonga, northern Spain, Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018.

Associated Press

race ends Sunday in Madrid.

"I haven't won La Vuelta yet," Yates said. "I'm very wary of tomorrow. We saw today what can happen

in just one day. Of course I enjoyed today, but it's not over until it's over."

Valverde was not giving up yet.

"What's happened to me

today can also happen to him (Yates) tomorrow," Valverde said. "To win La Vuelta is complicated, for sure. It was complicated this morning, it's complicated

now, but it's not impossible. We're going to try. I'm still confident." Nairo Quintana had a punctured tire with less than 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) to go and dropped more than four minutes off the lead, virtually out of contention. Pinot had won the challenging 15th stage on Sunday with a dominant charge on the iconic climb into Lagos de Covadonga. "The first victory, it was already very good," Pinot said. "And now, two victories, it allows me to hammer it down. It's a dream Vuelta. I wanted to enjoy myself and I proved I was able to win head to head with the strongest climbers. I had ticked those two stages. Today, the climb was longer and not as steep, it suited my abilities better." □

The Apple Watch is inching toward becoming a medical device

By **MICHAEL LIETKE**

**AP Technology Writer
CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) —**

Apple is trying to turn its smartwatch from a niche gadget into a lifeline to better health by slowly evolving it into a medical device.

In its fourth incarnation, called Series 4 and due out later this month, the Apple Watch will add features that allow it to take high-quality heart readings and detect falls. It's part of Apple's long-in-the-making strategy to give people a distinct reason to buy a wrist gadget that largely does things smartphones already do.

Since the Apple Watch launched in April 2015, most people haven't figured out why they need to buy one. Apple doesn't release sales figures, but estimates from two analysts suggest the company shipped roughly 18 million watches in 2017. Apple sold almost 12 times as many iPhones — 216 million — last year.

Worldwide, about 48 million smartwatches are expected to be sold this year, compared with nearly 1.9 billion phones, according to the research firm Gartner.

Apple CEO Tim Cook has long emphasized the watch's health and fitness-tracking capabilities. The original version featured a heart-rate sensor that fed data into fitness and workout apps so they could suggest new goals and offer digital "rewards" for fitness accomplishments.



Apple CEO Tim Cook discusses the new Apple Watch 4 at the Steve Jobs Theater during an event to announce new products Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018, in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

Two years later, Apple called its watch "the ultimate device for a healthy life," emphasizing water resistance for swimmers and built-in GPS for tracking runs or cycling workouts. In February, the company announced that the watch would track skiing and snowboarding runs, including data on speed and vertical descent.

The latest version, unveiled Wednesday, is pushing the health envelope even further — in particular by taking electrocardiograms, or EKGs, a feature given clearance by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Apple said. The watch will also monitor for irregular

heartbeats and can detect when the wearer has fallen, the company said.

EKGs are important tests of heart health and typically require a visit to the doctor. The feature gained an onstage endorsement from Ivor Benjamin, a cardiologist who is president of the American Heart Association. He said such real-time data would change the way doctors work.

Gartner analyst Tuong Nguyen said the feature could turn smartwatches "from something people buy for prestige into something they buy for more practical reasons."

It could also lead some health insurance plans to

subsidize the cost of an Apple Watch, Nguyen said. That would help defray the \$400 starting price for a device that still requires a companion iPhone, which can now cost more than \$1,000.

Apple's watch will use new sensors on the back and on the watch dial. A new app will say whether each reading is normal or shows signs of atrial fibrillation, an irregular heart rate that increases the risk of heart complications, such as stroke and heart failure.

Apple says the heart data can be shared with doctors through a PDF file, though it's not yet clear how ready doctors are to receive a

possible flood of new EKG data from patients — nor how useful they will find the electronic files.

Eric Topol, a cardiologist and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, warned that the EKG feature could spur more tests than necessary, result in unnecessary prescriptions for blood thinners and overwhelm doctors with calls from patients who probably don't need treatment. He said that while the feature will probably save some lives and prevent strokes with early detection of heart trouble, "the ratio between the benefits and the costs remains a big unknown."

Apple said the EKG feature will be available to U.S. customers later this year, an indication that it may not be ready for launch.

Fall detection could also be significant, especially for elderly users. The new Apple Watch claims to be able to tell the difference between a trip and a fall — and when the latter occurs, it will suggest calling 911 (or the equivalent outside the U.S.). If it receives no response within a minute, the watch will automatically place an emergency call and message friends and family designated as emergency contacts.

Only certain Apple Watch models support cellular calls, but those that don't can still make emergency calls when near a paired iPhone or Wi-Fi service.

Apple says it monitored some 2,500 people — measuring how they fell off ladders, missed a step while walking or got their legs caught in their pants while getting dressed. It used that data to separate real falls from other heavy wrist movements, such as clapping and hammering.

The feature is available immediately worldwide and will turn on automatically for users 65 and over. Younger people can activate it in the settings.

"I can see kids buying one for their parents and grandparents," analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights said. □

Beyond fake news? Facebook to fact check photos, videos

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook says it is expanding its fact-checking program to include photos and videos as it fights fake news and misinformation on its service. Malicious groups seeking to sow political discord in the U.S. and elsewhere have been embracing images and video to spread misinformation.

The company has been testing the image fact-checks since the spring, beginning with France and the news



FILE- In this May 1, 2018, file photo Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg makes the keynote address at F8, Facebook's developer conference in San Jose, Calif.

Associated Press

agency AFP. Now, it will send all of its 27 third-party fact-checkers disputed photos and videos to verify. Fact-checkers can also find them on their own.

Facebook will label images or video found to be untrue or misleading as such.

Facebook says the fact-checkers use visual verification techniques such as reverse image searching and analyzing image metadata to check the veracity of photos and videos. □

Delegate, delegate? It's not so easy, business owners say

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

NEW YORK (AP) — Although Soyini Chan-Shue easily delegated work to police officers when she was a sergeant in the New York City Police Department, it was hard to relinquish tasks to employees of the security firm she now owns.

The key difference for her? Chan-Shue worked in an NYPD office that formulated policy and she was part of a chain of command. At her own company, she's the one in charge.

"It can be nerve-wracking to give my staffers the autonomy to make decisions I formerly made, but I realized that I can't effectively grow my business if I don't," says Chan-Shue, CEO of City Safe Partners in New York.

When a business is large enough that the owner must delegate decisions and tasks — even to trusted employees — it can be a psychic shock, especially for entrepreneurs used to doing everything themselves. Many pale at the idea of asking managers and top staffers to take on critical responsibilities like



In this Sept. 7, 2018, photo Soyini Chan-Shue poses for a portrait at City Safe Partner's office in New York.

prospecting for and dealing with customers, hiring new workers or overseeing production. Beyond taking pride in being a superhero owner, they fear what might happen if a staffer makes a costly mistake. Greg Galant remembers feeling "a mixture of terror and pride" as he gave his staff more responsibility

at his company, Sawhorse Media, whose business includes Muck Rack, a website for journalists and public relations professionals. "You feel like you are the business, and now you're letting someone else do the business unchecked," he says. The New York-based company has grown to more

than 40 staffers since Galant and business partner Lee Semel founded it in 2009. Galant realized early on that the company wouldn't be able to expand that way unless he turned over some tasks to employees. Among them: maintaining the company's books and monitoring website traffic.

"Eventually you realize that you are the bottleneck and not delegating is hurting the company," says Robert Glazer, the CEO of marketing company Acceleration Partners and a board member at other companies. He's learned from his own experience, and also from the struggles of owners he's advised.

People need to accept that the tasks they delegate won't be done perfectly all the time, Glazer says.

"When things don't turn out as planned, they feel they should not have delegated. You have to break out of that cycle," he says. "Success is it being 85 percent right without having to do the work themselves."

Lawrence Kopp struggled to delegate for the first decade he owned The TASC Group public relations firm. When a client wanted to appear on a network TV morning news show, Kopp wouldn't let a staffer call a producer to make the arrangements.

"I always felt that I was the only one who had the answer," Kopp says. □

Associated Press

US retail sales up just 0.1 pct. after previous strong gain

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. retail sales barely rose in August as consumers slowed their spending after a robust month of shopping in July.

The Commerce Department said Friday that the value of purchases ticked up just 0.1 percent last month, the smallest increase in six months. But the sluggish figure may prove only a temporary blip. It partly reflected falling prices for items like clothing, and it followed a strong gain of 0.7 percent in July.

Consumer confidence soared to its highest level in 18 years in August as Americans expressed a

more optimistic outlook on the economy. That suggests that retail sales could rebound in the coming months.

"The trend in retail spending is still solid, fueled by job growth and rising wages," said Ben Ayers, senior economist at Nationwide. "We expect retail sales to pick up again in coming months to continue a strong 2018 for consumer activity." Still, auto sales fell 0.8 percent last month, and clothing stores sales plunged 1.7 percent, the steepest drop in 18 months, though that figure mostly reflected lower-priced clothing rather than declining demand.

Retail sales are closely monitored by economists because they provide an

early read on consumer spending, which drives about two-thirds of economic activity.

Sales at gas stations jumped 1.7 percent, an increase that reflected higher prices at the pump. Excluding gas stations, retail sales slipped 0.1 percent, the first decline since January.

Sales increased at electronics and appliance stores, sporting goods stores, restaurants and bars, and a category that includes online and catalog retailers. Online and catalog sales have jumped 10.4 percent compared with a year earlier, a much larger increase than the 6.6 percent rise in overall sales.

There are other signs that consumers are optimistic



In this Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018, photo, a prospective buyer looks over a 2019 Cooper S convertible on the showroom floor of a Mini dealership in Highlands Ranch, Colo.

Associated Press

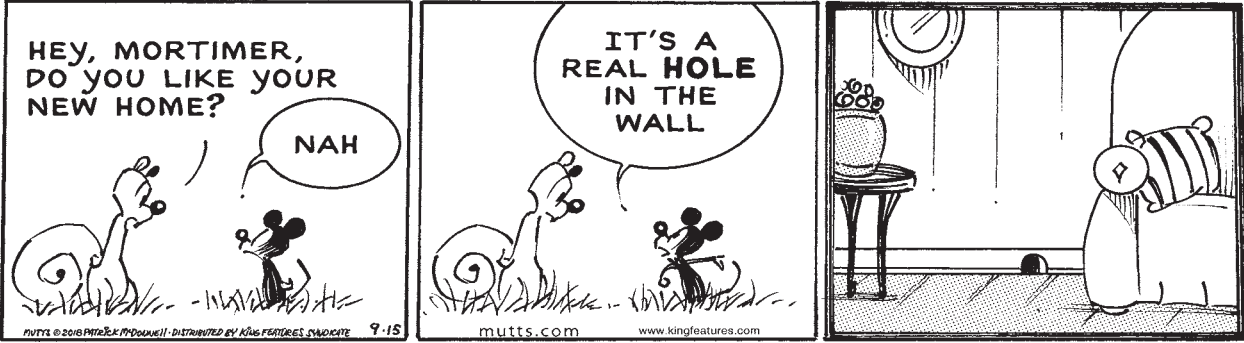
and prepared to spend. Americans borrowed more in July, increasing credit card debt and student and auto loans — a sign of confidence in their ability to repay the debt.

Retailers expect a solid winter holiday shopping season and are announcing plans to ramp up their hiring of seasonal staff. Target said this week that it plans to hire 120,000 temporary

workers, 20 percent more than last year.

The economy expanded at a robust 4.2 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, the strongest growth in four years. That growth was lifted by solid consumer spending, which increased 3.8 percent. Analysts forecast growth will slip in the current July-September quarter to a still-healthy 3 percent annual pace. □

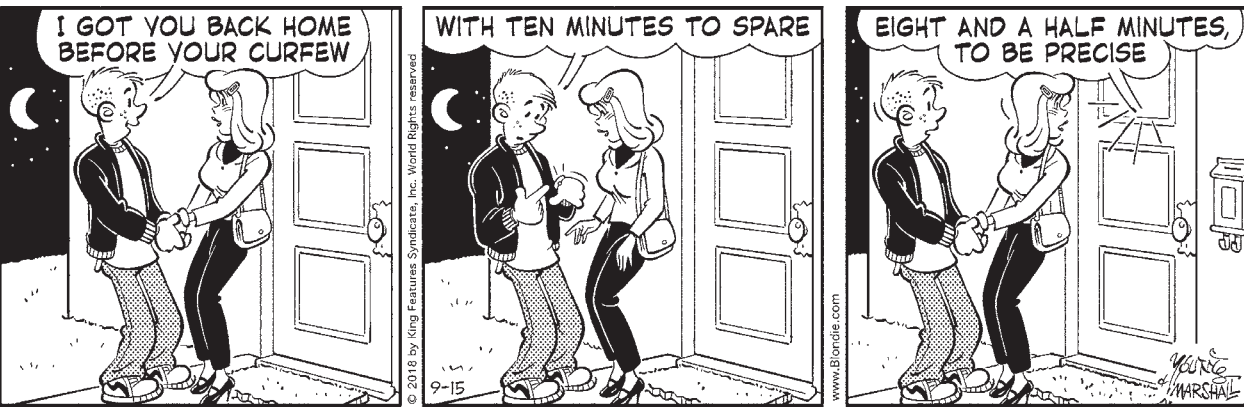
Mutts



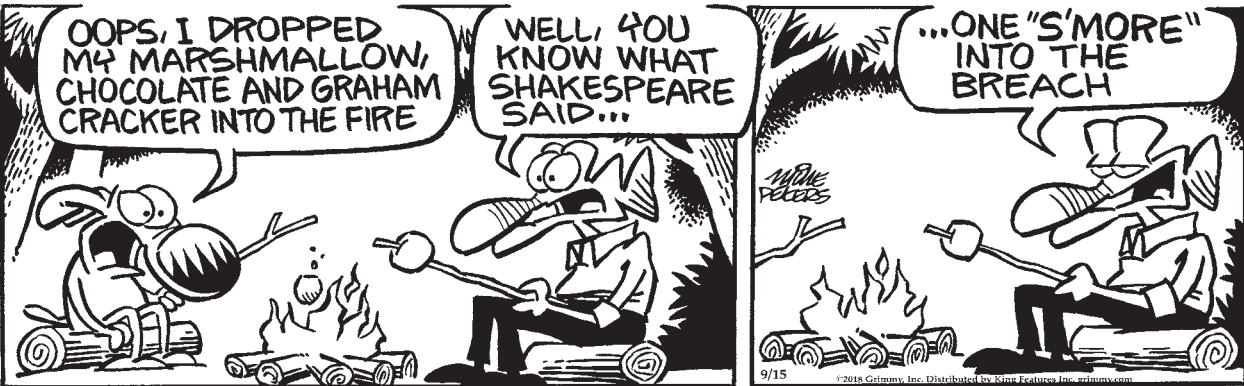
6 Chix



Blondie



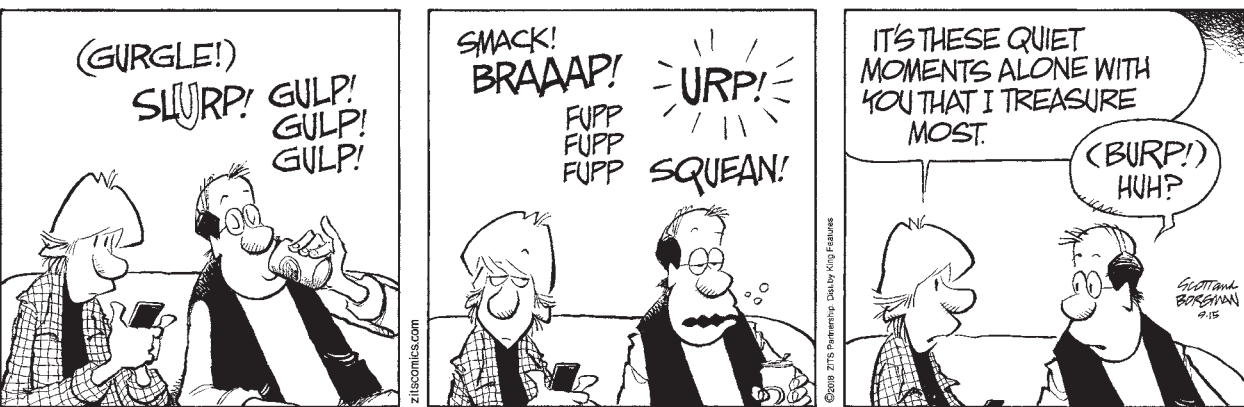
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

						5	6	
				2	1			
	2			3	8			
6	3							
7								4
						2	3	
			6	1		9		
		7	9					
	8	4						

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

9/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

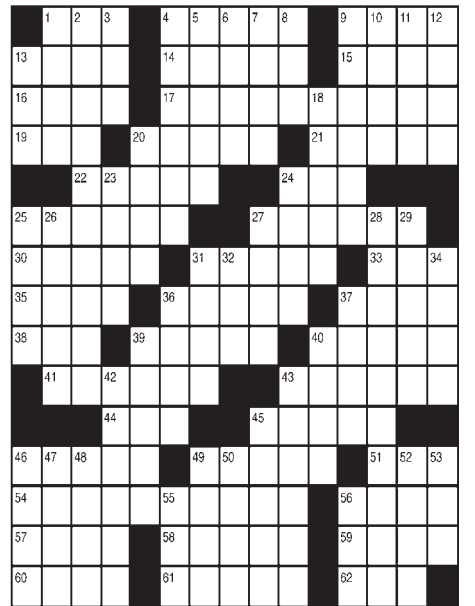
2	8	3	5	4	9	1	6	7
7	9	5	6	1	2	8	4	3
1	6	4	7	8	3	9	2	5
4	5	2	8	3	1	6	7	9
8	3	9	4	7	6	5	1	2
6	7	1	2	9	5	3	8	4
3	1	6	9	2	4	7	5	8
9	4	8	1	5	7	2	3	6
5	2	7	3	6	8	4	9	1

ACROSS

- Small vegetable
- Inane
- Not quite closed
- Go by
- to; before
- Mexican wolf
- Tears
- Sounds familiar
- Half and half
- Public transports
- Free-for-all
- Sofa
- Island neckwear
- River overpass
- Fireplace shelf
- Highways
- Use up, as money
- Mover's truck
- Pointed tools
- Throw water on
- Kelly or Wilder
- Become firm
- Young animals
- Jig or jitterbug
- Ball of fire
- Shoved
- Ridicule
- Caffé ; Starbucks order
- Scrub
- Edge; threshold
- Org. for Hawks and Pelicans
- Location of LaGuardia & JFK
- Eden resident
- Part of the foot
- Small weight
- Place to get lunch
- Bump into
- from; talk out of
- " on a Grecian Urn"

DOWN

- Kidney stone symptom
- In particular
- Burro
- Pine variety
- setter; reddish dog
- up; form a queue
- Cabin wall pieces
- Periods of time; abbr.
- Although
- Singer/songwriter/pianist Billy
- Qualified
- Movie part
- In favor of
- Change for the better
- Annoys
- Chances
- "Penny "; Beatles song
- Toot one's own horn
- Used an oar
- Clutter
- Fair; impartial
- Cyclist
- Song for one
- down; belittle
- Have to have
- Capitol roof



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/15/18

Friday's Puzzle Solved

TEE	SHEDS	RASH
OATS	KATIE	ECHO
ARCH	ADORE	CHOP
SHORTENED	EYES	
WOES	LBS	
SHREWD	PHEASANT	
PEERS	LOUSY	MOO
ALPS	BARN	LOBE
CEE	MIKES	HONEY
ENLARGED	BUNGLE	
USA	MING	
LOSS	PLAIN	TIFF
EATS	POUND	NOAH
THAI	LANCE	GAME
SURE	ENTER	LES

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9/15/18

- Long deep cut
- Isle of ; Italian resort
- Quacker
- All for ; fruitless
- Contemplate
- pie
- Close noisily
- Apple's center
- A single time
- Unhappy
- and rave; carry on
- Actor
- Christian
- "What Kind of Fool ?"
- Layer of turf
- Hullabaloo



In this July 17, 2012, file photo, adult female walrus rest on an ice flow with young walruses in the Eastern Chukchi Sea, Alaska. Associated Press

Thousands of Pacific walrus again herd up on Alaska coast

By DAN JOLING
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Thousands of Pacific walrus have again gathered on the northwest shore of Alaska as the Chukchi Sea approaches its annual sea ice minimum.

Residents of the Inupiaq village of Point Lay on Aug. 22 reported hearing walrus, said Andrea Medeiros, spokeswoman in Alaska for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Spotters taking part in an annual aerial marine mammal survey on Aug. 30 photographed walrus on a barrier island near Point Lay. An estimated 25,000 animals were there, Medeiros said.

"The herd is 2 to 3 miles (3

to 5 kilometers) north of the old village site on the island," Medeiros said. "We are monitoring the herd with the help of local people and U.S. Geological Survey staff who are on site doing research."

Walrus over the last decade have come to shore on the Alaska and Russia sides of the Chukchi Sea as sea ice diminishes because of global warming.

Walrus use sea ice to rest as they dive to the ocean floor to hunt for clams and snails. When ice recedes north of the shallow continental shelf, walrus head to beaches to rest.

The animals lie shoulder to shoulder and can be startled by a polar bear, airplane or hunter. □

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Oceanside \$16k
Oceanview \$15k
3BEDRM \$26k
*WK. 51 OV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$45k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B Oceanside \$8500
GV \$6k OV \$7k
3BEDRM \$12500

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

PLATINUM Season

2 Bed OV \$17k
2B Oceanfront \$24k
1B OV \$10k
** Destination points \$9 per point

La Cabana Beach Resort
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GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B OV \$8k
1 Bed \$4k
1B Oceanfront \$8500

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Jet Blue 588 2244

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September 18

Celebrity Equinox

September 19

Monarch

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FAVI- Visually Incapacitated
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

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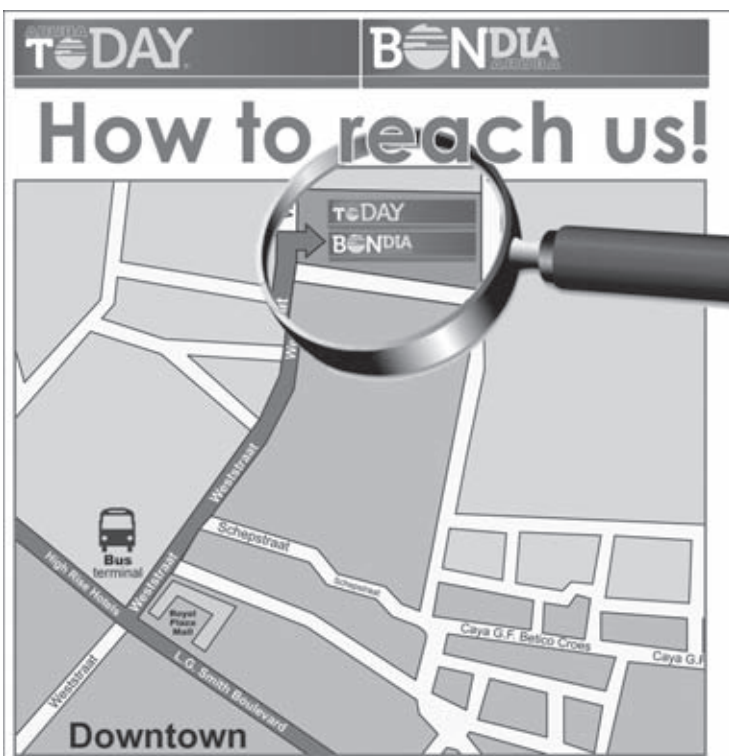
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AP Explains: How hurricanes unleash lethal storm surges

By SETH BORENSTEIN

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Behold the awesome power of water. Already the ocean is swallowing beaches, roads and anything else in the way of Hurricane Florence's monstrous storm surge. Storm surges aren't walls of water, like a tsunami, as commonly thought. Caused by a hurricane's winds pushing relentlessly on the shore, they are more like domes of high water that form as the ocean spreads inland. The high water has destructive waves on top, and it comes in addition to normal tides.

"You are taking the ocean and raising it," said storm surge expert Hal Needham, director of Marine Weather and Climate in Miami. "It's not a wave the surfer rides. It's actually raising the ocean. That's why it's so scary."

Florence's storm surge will probably be 7 to 11 feet (more than 2 to 3 meters) above ground in parts of North Carolina, according to the National Hurricane Center. Other areas can expect the surge to be taller than the average person — nearly 6 feet (2 meters) or higher.

Even if a house is elevated 10 feet (3 meters), with that kind of storm surge, "there's a good chance there's going to be water inside of it," Needham said.

With Florence moving slowly and stalling, the storm surge is going to be a bigger, longer-term factor than normal because the water "just keeps piling up," Needham said.

It's not just beach areas that are at risk. Storm surge invades rivers and estuaries, too. And National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said that's a particular worry with Florence.



Waves slam the Oceana Pier & Pier House Restaurant in Atlantic Beach, N.C., Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018 as Hurricane Florence approaches the area.

Associated Press

"These bays, these rivers and these inlets, there's so much storm surge the water is being literally forced to flow the opposite direction," Graham said. "You can get storm surge even several miles inland."

While hurricane-force winds can rip the roofs off houses, it is the water — storm surge, inland flooding, surf and drowning at sea — that kills nearly 9 out of 10 people in hurricanes like Florence.

And of all those, storm surge is the deadliest. From 1963 to 2012, 49 percent of U.S. hurricane deaths were from storm surge, 27 percent from rain, 8 percent from wind, 6 percent from surf, 6 percent were offshore and 3 percent from tornadoes, according to a National Hurricane Center study.

The deadliest hurricanes to hit the U.S. mainland killed most of their victims with storm surge, including 2005's Katrina, said Jeff Masters, meteorology director at Weather Underground.

But last year, even with hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, no one in the United States died of storm surge,

the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced. It was the first year that the hurricane center had started new storm surge warnings. Mostly people are getting better at evacuating, with three-quarters of the Florida Keys fleeing before Irma, Masters said.

Storm surge is also the source of vast amounts of damage. Masters estimated that storm surge caused at least \$3 billion in damage, compared with maybe \$1 billion for wind damage. Damaged or destroyed buildings are often rebuilt in the same surge-prone areas, with govern-

ment aid, he said.

Needham, who drove all night from Miami to North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to watch and record the storm surge from the relative safety of a parking garage, said the storm surge had "already gobbled up the beach" there.

"It's just going to be an interesting ride," Needham said. "I could not sit home and watch it on TV. I had to be there."

The worst storm surge comes in with a hurricane's eye, and it arrives "with a lot of debris to batter you, and it's not particularly survivable," Masters said.

Storm surge is higher in

the right-front quadrant of a storm because the system's counterclockwise motion pushes more water inland, Masters said. Sometimes in the opposite quadrant there's a reverse storm surge that makes the ocean retreat. That's particularly dangerous because the ocean comes back quickly with 6 feet (2 meters) or more of water. Storm surge is higher when the water just off the beach is shallower, Needham said. Think of it like a giant aquarium filled to the brim. If a large rock is thrown in, it spills over. But if the aquarium is not full, it's only a ripple.

Tides are another factor. The surge is highest when the tides are high. The coast of the Carolinas is about middle of the road with about 4 to 5 feet of difference (1.2 to 1.5 meters) between high and low tides.

The shape of the coastline is another factor. If it is bowl-shaped, like in Georgia and South Carolina, the surge is deeper, but when it is the opposite shape, like the Outer Banks, it's less so, Needham said.

Seas have risen from global warming, making all of this even worse. □

Truly deep: Florence to dump 18 trillion gallons of rain

By SETH BORENSTEIN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Florence's rain total will likely be staggeringly huge.

Meteorologist Ryan Maue of weathermodels.com calculates that Hurricane Florence is forecast to dump about 18 trillion gallons of rain over a week over the North Carolina, South Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Maryland. It doesn't include rain after it dissipates and its remnants circle back to the northeast.

Those numbers still don't quite measure up to the 25 trillion gallons from last

year's Harvey in Texas and Louisiana because the 2017 storm stalled longer and stayed closer to the Gulf of Mexico for more moisture. Florence still should swamp the 5.2 trillion gallons that fell 19 years ago when Floyd was the last scary storm to hit the Carolinas. Florence's 18 trillion gallons is as much water as there is in the entire Chesapeake Bay. It's also enough to cover the entire state of Texas with nearly four inches (10 centimeters) of water.

That much rain is 2.4 trillion cubic feet (68 billion cubic meters). It's enough to cover Manhattan with nearly

3,800 feet (1.1 kilometers) of water, more than twice as high as the island's tallest building, One World Trade Center.

North Carolina alone is forecast to get 9.6 trillion gallons of rain, enough to cover the Tar Heel state in about 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rain.

Maue calculates that 34 million people in the U.S. are forecast to get at least 3 inches (7.6 centimeters) of rain from Florence, with more than 5.7 million probably getting at least a foot, and about 1.5 million getting 20 inches (51 centimeters) or more. □



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Broadway and West End star Marin Mazzie dies

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Actress and soprano Marin Mazzie, a three-time Tony Award nominee known for powerhouse Broadway performances in "Ragtime," "Passion" and "Kiss Me, Kate," has died following a three-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was 57.

Mazzie died Thursday at her Manhattan home surrounded by close friends and family, said her husband, actor Jason Danieley. Her death was confirmed by her publicist, Kim Corro.

Tributes came from all across Broadway, including Harvey Fierstein, who wrote, "Beautiful, brave and inspiring. A glorious voice and an even better human being" and Michael Urie, who called Mazzie "luminous." Actor Daniel Dae Kim wrote: "The lights of Broadway all shine a little dimmer tonight."

Mazzie's broad career went from screwball comedy — in "Kiss Me, Kate" and "Monty Python's Spamalot" on Broadway and the West End — to riveting, dysfunctional moms in "Next to Normal" and "Carrie." She earned other Broadway roles in "Man of La Man-



In this April 10, 2014 file photo, actor Marin Mazzie on stage during the curtain call for the opening night of "Bullets Over Broadway" in New York.

Associated Press

cha," "Bullets Over Broadway," "Enron" and "Into the Woods."

She found out about her cancer diagnosis on the opening day of a concert production of "Zorba!" in May 2015 and refused to pull out. In one song, she sang: "Life is what you do while you're waiting to die." Mazzie later underwent a hysterectomy, a bowel resection because the can-

cer had spread and weeks of chemotherapy. She returned to Broadway a year later, replacing Kelli O'Hara in "The King and I."

"It's very emotional for me," she told The Associated Press in 2016. "I'm so anxious and excited and thrilled to be able to bring, in essence, a new me back to the stage with what's gone on in my life."

The New York Times said

Mazzie brought "a touch of brass" to the role of English schoolteacher Anna Leonowens. It praised her for a "husky quietness, and you hear the fragile heart beating beneath the stalwartly corseted form."

Mazzie was born and raised in Rockford, Illinois, in a home often filled with show tunes and original cast recordings. She attended Western Michigan Univer-

sity in Kalamazoo to study theater, and her first job was in a musical at a dinner theater in her hometown.

A key moment in her life happened when she was 8 years old and saw a touring company of "Carousel" starring John Raitt. In the second act, Rockford was plunged into a blackout and the actors needed flashlights to finish the show. After it ended, Raitt came out and sang for the audience until it was deemed safe for everyone to go home. He sang for 45 minutes. "I will never forget that moment," Mazzie recounted in "Making It on Broadway," a book of Broadway stories. "To me, that was the magic of theater. Every night is different. Every audience is different. I just love the magic."

Mazzie made her New York stage debut in the 1983 revival of Frank Loesser's musical, "Where's Charley?" Her big break came playing Beth in "Merrily We Roll Along" at the La Jolla Playhouse in California in 1985, the first production outside New York. La Jolla artistic director Des McAnuff later put her into "Big River" on Broadway, marking her debut on the Great White Way. □

Ringo! Ex-Beatles drummer plays at Radio City Music Hall

By HILLEL ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It's the season for Beatles in New York City.

Within a week of Paul McCartney playing a surprise show at Grand Central Station, Ringo Starr followed a more old-fashioned path Thursday night. The drummer and singer headlined a two-hour show at Radio City Music Hall, with thousands spending much of the performance standing and cheering along.

"We love you, Ringo!" one fan called out, and Starr shouted greetings in kind.

It was not a time for lamenting the state of the world. The beloved ex-Beatle wore black, but bright stars hung above the stage and

peace signs beamed from behind. Starr's message for years has been peace and love and a happy look back, whether through such Beatles and solo favorites as "Yellow Submarine" and "Photograph" or through the songs of his current set of sidemen.

Since the 1980s, he has toured and served as master of ceremonies with a rotating cast of rock stars of a certain age, what he calls his "All Starr Band." On Thursday, he shared a generous amount of stage time with Colin Hay of Men At Work, Gregg Rolie of Santana, Steve Lukather of Toto and Graham Gouldman of 10cc. Audience members spanned three generations. They may have come

to be in the presence of a Beatle, but they also shared flashbacks of early MTV with such hits as Men At Work's "Down Under" and Toto's "Africa" and cheered on the old Santana jams "Black Magic Woman" and "Oye Como Va."

At 78, Starr seems the least burned out of performers and the least changed from his prime, moving about the stage with the lightness of a man decades younger, his baritone showing no effects from his years of smoking.

After joking early on about his struggles to write, he performed his self-composed "Anthem" — for "peace and love" as the song goes. But the show builds up to his real signature song, and



In this June 23, 2018 file photo, musician Ringo Starr performs in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Associated Press

long-running tribute to his place in the world: Lennon-McCartney's "With a Little Help from My Friends." He didn't need to introduce it,

and hardly needed to sing it. He held out the microphone to the crowd and everyone seemed to join in. □

Packed fall TV brings Julia Roberts, life after 'Roseanne'

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There's so much television to watch or pretend to watch — have you really followed all of wrenching "The Handmaid's Tale" or even heart-warming "This Is Us"? — the guru who coined the term "peak TV" is upping the ante.

John Landgraf, the erudite chief executive of FX Networks, warned that TV's golden age may be morphing into a gilded one, borrowing Mark Twain's zinger aimed at the late 19th-century's crass excess. Harsh! But it's true that TV has reached superstore proportions: Streaming, cable and broadcast are on track to surpass the record 487 shows they fielded last year, with 300-plus shows already out by mid-2018 per an ongoing FX tally.

The fall TV season officially kicks off next week and even avant-garde streaming platforms, which release ambitious shows non-stop, are part of the traditional September hoopla once owned by broadcast



This image released by ABC shows, from left, Sara Gilbert, Jayden Rey, Michael Fishman, Ames McNamara, John Goodman, Laurie Metcalf, Lecy Goranson and Emma Kenney in a scene from "The Connors," premiering Oct. 16.

Associated Press

networks.

So how to find quality goods? You might consider these tips brainstormed with TV and popular culture professor Robert Thompson of Syracuse University.

— Do your homework. Viewers who once leisurely browsed through

the schedules of broadcast networks for free now face a dizzying number of fee-based platforms and shows. Trusted publications and bloggers can help you sort through them.

— Break out of your comfort zone. "Take a percentage of your viewing and watch things you think you're not going to like," Thompson says. Cable and streaming lean toward gourmet fare and networks dish out comfort food, but both can yield surprises.

— Don't judge a TV series by its cover, aka the pilot episode. It introduces characters and provides a blueprint for where it intends to go, a heavy lift. It's a rare bird like "This Is Us" that starts out precisely realized.

— Follow the work of stars you like but keep producers and writers in mind, too. When "Mad Men" creator Matthew Weiner unveils new anthology series "The Romanoffs" Oct. 12 on Amazon Prime Video, admirers of his late, lamented AMC drama will want to tune in. Which leads us to this fall's newcomers, a mix of "yes," "maybe" and "why?" Here's a roadmap to a season that has something for everyone, and too much for all.

HEY, I'M ON TV!

Julia Roberts, the epitome of big-screen star power,

is following the path beaten by Nicole Kidman and others to intriguing small-screen material. For Roberts, the lure is Amazon's podcast-based psychological thriller "Homecoming," in which she plays a social worker for returning soldiers. Nov. 2.

Jim Carrey stars in his first TV series, Showtime's "Kidding," created by Dave Holstein ("Weeds," "Raising Hope") and with director Michel Gondry ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind") on board for several episodes of the dark comedy. Airing now.

"Superbad" stars Emma Stone and Jonah Hill are together again in Netflix's dark comedy "Maniac" as guinea pigs in a drug trial gone awry. It's directed by Cary Fukunaga ("True Detective," "Beasts of No Nation"). Sept. 21.

Jennifer Garner ("Alias") returns to her TV roots with HBO's "Camping," an outdoor test of marriage based on the British comedy and produced by Jenni Konner of "Girlfriends." David Tennant ("Doctor Who") co-stars. Oct. 14.

Michael Douglas produced and stars (opposite Alan Arkin) in Netflix's "The Kominsky Method," a nuanced comedy about aging that's a departure for creator and sitcom hitmaker Chuck

Lorre ("The Big Bang Theory," "Mom"). Nov. 16.

Benicio Del Toro, Patricia Arquette, and Paul Dano star in Showtime's "Escape at Dannemora," based on a headline-making 2015 New York State jailbreak. Funnyman Ben Stiller makes a sharp turn as the drama's producer-director. Nov. 18.

REVIVALS AND REVAMPS "Magnum P.I." is yet another blast-from-the-past CBS title, but original star Tom Selleck is staying put on "Blue Bloods" while Jay Hernandez steps into the title role. A 21st-century twist: Estate caretaker Higgins is a woman. Sept. 24.

"Murphy Brown" and the original cast topped by Candice Bergen return in the CBS sitcom that jostled with politicians during its 1988-98 run. Creator Diane English is back and ready to enter the Trump-era fray. Sept. 27.

CW's "Charmed" revisits the 1998-2008 supernatural drama with enough changes to make at least one original cast member issue dark mutterings. Melonie Diaz, Sarah Jeffery and Madeleine Mantock star as curiously gifted sisters. Oct. 14. "The Connors" is ABC's attempt to salvage a hit show and jobs from the wreckage of last season's revival of "Roseanne." With Roseanne Barr out, John Goodman, Sara Gilbert and other cast members take center stage. Oct. 16.

IS THERE AN ECHO IN HERE? The success of NBC's emotional rollercoaster "This Is Us" has not gone unnoticed, so prepare to hang on for more ups and downs. In ABC's "A Million Little Things," a group of friends are shocked into examining their lives after one of them dies, "discovering that friends may be the one thing to save them from themselves," as the network put it. The dearly departed (Ron Livingston) is seen in flashbacks, a comfortably familiar story device for "This Is Us" fans. Sept. 26.

Brandon Micheal Hall ("The Mayor") stars as a radio host and atheist who gets a wakeup call in CBS' "God Friended Me." □

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'Girl, Wash Your Face' writer Rachel Hollis ready for more

By LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — How to kick butt at the office. How to kick butt as a parent. How to kick butt, so to speak, in your marriage.

There's no shortage of books, podcasts, blogs and social streams of people dispensing advice, motivation, home tips and the idea that personal growth, happiness and health can be achieved if one just follows and believes.

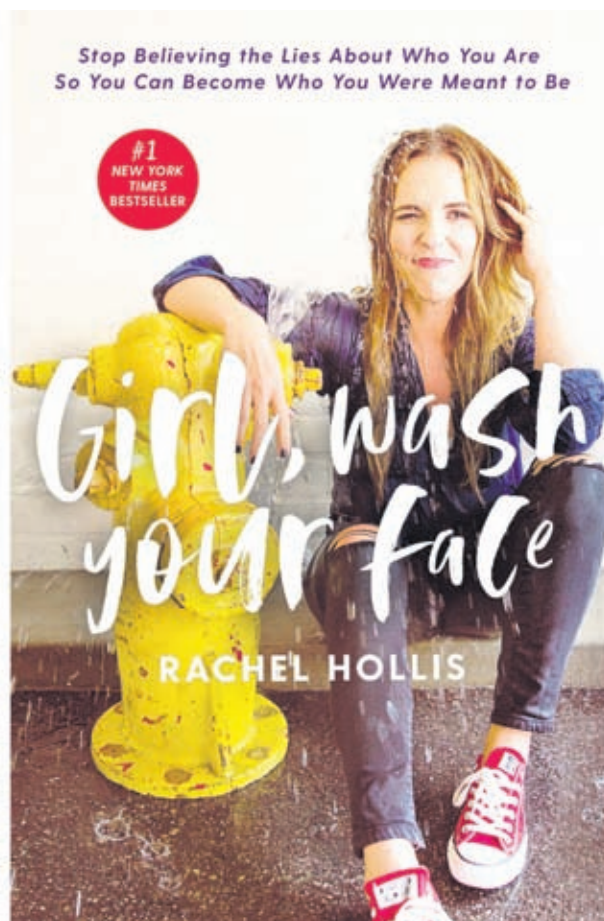
So what's a life guru to do? Well, write a book that lands at the top of just about every best-seller list, for starters. Love her or trash her, Rachel Hollis has done just that with "Girl, Wash Your Face," a collection of lies she once told herself and how she turned them around.

Hollis, 35, is the little engine that could as she reaches for more every day of her life, mostly from the rural spread on the outskirts of Austin, Texas, that she shares with her newly minted business partner and husband of 14 years, Dave Hollis, their four kids and a mini schnauzer named Jeffrey.

The Hollises do more than sit home in Austin. They run, a lot. They blast out livestreams. A lot. They record podcasts in their closet and organize life-affirming conferences for mostly female audiences who cheer and scribble their dreams on paper as Rachel waves her arms and jumps around on a stage, urging them on.

The Hollises drink water, a lot (half their body weight in water a day) and want you to do the same, perhaps while you're following Rachel's lead on prepping healthy meals and snacks for yourself and your kids, training for a half-marathon and simultaneously writing a new book and promoting the last one at the same time.

These two are Made for More, one of their slogans, and they're just about the cutest duo working in the space today, whether you can make it happen for yourself or not.



This image released by Thomas Nelson shows "Girl, Wash Your Face: Stop Believing the Lies About Who You Are so You Can Become Who You Were Meant to Be," by Rachel Hollis.

Associated Press

Rachel's "Girl, Wash Your Face," from the Christian imprint Thomas Nelson, was released in February. It just passed the million-sold mark after a slow start, climbing its way up the lists through word of mouth. She doesn't hold back, describing the suicide of her brother when they were teens, her tense childhood as the daughter of a Pentecostal preacher in the sticks of Southern California (yes, there are sticks) and the sometimes debilitating anxiety that has plagued her through the years. She hops on Instagram to greet her "tribe" before coffee, jokes about her hair and eyelash extensions and deals with her young brood while engaging fans, chiding one of her three boys to stop peeing in the yard, for instance, or laughing as her kitchen knife gets stuck in a squash on camera.

Where did Hollis come from? Well, Weedpatch, California, of "The Grapes of Wrath" fame, in the beginning, with a move to Los Angeles to make her dreams come true at age 17. Hollis, 43-year-old Dave and their kids decamped to Austin last year to get

more bang for their business buck, buying an old church they're converting into office space.

So how does one go from food blogger to event planner to running a lifestyles site to best-selling writer?

"What sets this book apart is — this sounds so lame to say — is my voice. I'm not an expert. I'm not a guru. Anything I've ever done, the work I've done, has always been like your girlfriend telling you what worked for her," Hollis said. "Even as a food blogger, which is how I got started, I was just telling what worked for me. 'Hey, this is the casserole I made that got my kids to eat dinner the other night.'" Over the years, her content changed as she "evolved as a woman," as her boys — now 11, 10 and 6 — grew out of toddlerhood (the couple also has an adopted 18-month-old daughter) and as she realized she needed to fix the things wrong in her life.

"I was having massive anxiety attacks. I was abusing alcohol. I was making really poor choices, and I thought, gosh, I don't want to go through the rest of my life like this," she said. "I want

to get control, so I started to do therapy and I started to read books and I started to listen to podcasts. I was like a sponge for this information."

Rachel is not Gwyneth. While an admirer of all things Pinterest perfect, she is not interested in putting a Goop gloss on who she is and what she says. She slams back her coffee like a boss (dosing it with cinnamon after she gave up milk and sugar), admits to yelling at her kids (not so much anymore) and thoroughly appreciates the taco joint near their Texas home.

So where does Dave fit into all of this? Well, he's got a tattoo that reads "Ally," to go with the one his wife already had, "Mogul." He was head of distribution for Disney, where Dreams are officially Made, for seven years and worked there for 17, until he recognized he was in a corporate rut while Rachel was home reaching for more.

"I finally one day said, 'Fine, I don't trust it. I think that there's some snake oil in this personal development space but it's worked for you. I have to at least see what it's about,'" he said.

Rachel's lifestyle blog, The Chic Site, is where she truly began building a following. Her "Girl, Wash Your Face" is her seventh book, if you count a novella of long ago. She has crossed genres, from a novel about three young women making their way in Los Angeles, with two follow ups, to a cookbook and soon, "Girl, Stop Apologizing," out in March.

As podcasts have taken hold again, the Hollises have scored there, too. Rachel started alone with "Rise," but as the two have become a self-help power couple, they've added "Rise Together" to focus on marriage. Both podcasts have made it into the Top 10 on iTunes. They've also made a feature-length documentary, "Made for More," about last year's "Rise" conference. The film was a Fathom event shown for two nights in theaters earlier this year that sold 100,000-plus tickets around the country.

This new life, Dave said, "feels like a calling," and if that sounds like God talk, it is. These are people of faith who are unashamed but not terribly Bible-thumpy as they dispense the self-help that has worked for them, both as individuals and as a couple.

"Mogul" remains Rachel's power word, just as "Ally" does for Dave.

"I refuse to live as half of myself just because you can't handle all of me," Rachel said. "I have a high school diploma. When I started out I was not well connected. I didn't know anybody. I didn't have the skill. I didn't have anything. I'm self-taught in every respect. That's why the word, to me, was so powerful." □




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